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THE RIVER PLATE

THE RIVER PLATE

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H A N D B O O K
OF
THE RIVER PLATE;

COMPRISING
BUENOS AYRES, THE UPPER PROVINCES, BANDA
ORIENTAL, AND PARAGUAY.

BY
M. G. & E. T. MULHALL,
Editors of the Standard.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.



BUENOS AYRES:
STANDARD PRINTING-OFFICE, 74 CALLE BELGRANO.
1869.

Price \$60 per Volume.

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VOL. I.



BUENOS AYRES:
STANDARD PRINTING OFFICE, 11 CANAL BELLEVILLE.

1860.

Price 10s 6d per Volume.

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TO

HIS EXCELLENCY D. F. SARMIENTO,

PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHORS.

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BY

THE AUTHORS

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1869

P R E F A C E .

THE utility of a work like the present is so manifest as to need neither explanation nor apology. If possible, it would be desirable to publish a Handbook of these countries annually, for the use as well of residents in the River Plate, as of our friends in Europe and the United States. Unfortunately, the difficulties and outlay are far beyond any profit that the editors can expect. In fact we lost money by our edition of 1863, the National and Provincial Governments failing to subscribe for a single copy, although we had the satisfaction of knowing that the work was productive of some good to our adopted country. In the improved and enlarged form of the present Handbook there will be found very complete and detailed information of these countries, as we have spared neither labor nor expense to deserve the approval of the foreign community, which is the great object we always keep in view. It has been our particular study to give an exact picture of foreign enterprise and industry in the River Plate, and the task was, indeed, an agreeable one. At the same time we have labored to point out to readers in Europe the many advantages which these countries enjoy, to attract a larger tide of immigration. Nor must we omit here to bear evidence to the liberal spirit of the institutions of these

Republics, and the kindly feeling and cordiality of all educated Argentines and Orientals. In fine, we have every hope that with an increase of population and industrial resources the River Plate will soon follow in the footsteps of its great model, the United States.

The conclusion of the Paraguayan War and commencement of President Sarmiento's administration is a most opportune time for the publication of the present work, in the hope of drawing increased attention to the River Plate. Under a progressive and peaceful administration we may look forward to widespread improvement, new enterprises, and an increase of trade and industry. Popular education also bids fair to make much headway, and no branch of knowledge is more important, nor more neglected in Buenos Ayres, than the study of the resources of the Argentine Republic! Let us hope that patriotic Argentines will join heart and hand with foreigners to advance this fine country.

Volume I. of the Handbook contains three sections, viz.: A., the Argentine Republic, its colonies, railways, history, public men, &c.; B., the City of Buenos Ayres, its buildings, institutions, and port; C., the Camps of Buenos Ayres, comprising the various partidos and every estancia in the province. Volume II. contains four sections: D., the thirteen Argentine Provinces; E., the Banda Oriental; F., Paraguay; and G., a complete Directory, official, foreign, and commercial, of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, each apart. The maps of the Argentine Republic, Buenos Ayres city, and Montevideo, will be bound with the second volume.

In giving the Handbook now to the public we feel confident that it will meet with a good reception: whatever inaccuracies may have unavoidably crept in will be corrected in the next edition. We have to thank the numerous kind friends who contributed interesting information about their

own particular district, and especially the Irish clergymen in the camp, to whom we beg to offer a copy of the book gratis for each of their Lending Libraries. We also offer a copy for each public and charitable institution of the English, Scotch, American, and German communities on either side of the River Plate. Volume II. will appear on the 1st of June, and the Directory of Buenos Ayres is being carefully compiled by Mr. Frank Mulhall, 74 Calle Belgrano, to whom communications may be directed.

M. G. & E. T. MULHALL.

March 17, 1869, Standard Office, Buenos Ayres.

ERRATA.

SECTION A., page 3, line 3, read «14,000,000 sheep.»

“ “ 16, “ 2, “ «Pyrenees.»

“ “ 109, “ 15, “ «100 tons monthly.»

“ “ 157, “ 25, “ «doubloon 15.36.»

“ “ 157, “ 25, “ «20 francs 3.60.»

“ “ 157, “ 26, “ «condor 8.80.»

SECTION C., “ 81, “ 12, “ «Kiernan.»

“ “ 20, “ 1, “ «Chapter III.»

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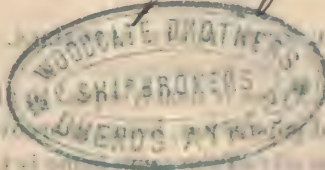
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SECTION A.

CHAP. I.

THE RIVER PLATE REPUBLICS.

THE RIVER PLATE REPUBLICS are three in number, viz.: the Argentine Nation (or La Plata, properly so called), Uruguay or Banda Oriental, and Paraguay. These immense territories, formerly comprehended in the viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres under the Spanish regime, cover nearly 900,000 square miles, with a scanty population not exceeding three millions, or *three* inhabitants per square mile. The mineral and agricultural resources of these countries are perhaps equal to those of the United States, and the water system is almost unrivalled, the affluents of the Plate ramifying one-half of the Continent. The climate is the healthiest on the face of the globe, the inhabitants are very friendly to foreigners, civil and religious liberty prevail in the fullest sense, and treaties of amity and commerce have been concluded with all the great Powers. Trade relations and new enterprises of importance have brought the River Plate into close contact with Great Britain and the London capitalists, and there are few countries which offer more inducements to English emigrants than these, or few foreign nations viewed with more respect, by Argentines, than Great Britain.

The ARGENTINE REPUBLIC is for the most part an unbroken plain, bounded on the North by Bolivia, on the West by the Cordillera of the Andes, on the South by Magellan's Straits, and on the East by Brazil, Banda Oriental, and the Atlantic. It is divided into fourteen provinces, some of which Tapalqu little deserving of note, but others have attained a high degree of zation.

The Province of Buenos Ayres is nearly equal to all the rest collectively, in importance, wealth, and population, being moreover the great centre of foreign immigration. The city of the same name is the seat of the National and Provincial Governments, and one of the principal sea-ports of South America. In the refinement of its society, progressive spirit of the people, and activity of trade and industry, it yields to no other city in the Continent, and has earned the title of «Athens of South America.» Entre Rios and Santa Fé have of late attracted much notice as sheep-farming countries. Cordoba, the heart of the interior, will soon receive a great impulse from the Central Argentine Railway. San Juan and Catamarca are remarkable for their mineral wealth. Mendoza, at the foot of the Cordillera, formerly the chief city of the Cuyo provinces, is hardly emerging from the ruins of the earthquake of 1861. Santiago and the other northern provinces have been hitherto so isolated as to be almost valueless, but the projected navigation of the Vermejo, and the opening of a highway through the Gran Chaco, will unite them with the river Paraná, the great artery of the Republic. The provinces called Litoral, from being adjacent to this river, have an immense advantage over the rest, possessing cheap freight and easy transit to Buenos Ayres and the commercial world. The population of the Republic is usually set down at a million and a half souls, but is rather over than under that estimate. The established religion is Roman Catholic, and the language Spanish, from which nation the original settlers were descended.

The REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY, or «Banda Oriental,» is separated from the last-mentioned country by the Rivers Plate and Uruguay: the La Plata, opposite Buenos Ayres, is twenty-eight miles wide. It is very different from the sister state, in being intersected with numerous chains of mountains, called here Cuchillas or Sierras. Its extent is 63,000 square miles, or larger than England by one-eighth. Many of the general features are similar to those of La Plata, the country being eminently adapted for sheep and cattle farming, and, moreover, free from Indian incursions. The capital, Montevideo, is favorably situated near the mouth of the Plate, and its commerce is almost equal to that of Buenos Ayres, from which port it is distant 120 miles. The next towns of importance are—Salto and Paysandú, on the River Uruguay; Canelones, Tacuarembó, and Minas, in the interior; Mercedes, on the Rio Negro; Colonia, abreast of Buenos Ayres; and Maldonado, on the Atlantic. The country is thickly wooded in parts, and presents a beautifully diversified appearance. Of late years there has been an immense influx of immigrants, and several Buenos Ayrean land-owners also possess estancias on this side: the population was

quintupled in the forty years from 1824-64, being now returned as 300,000. The live stock is considerable, amounting to 8,000,000 head of horned cattle, 4,000,000 sheep, and 2,000,000 of other kinds. The Custom regulations are much more liberal than those of Buenos Ayres; the religion and language are the same. During the past two years the country was desolated by civil war, but everything now seems satisfactorily settled, and the Government is really anxious to improve the means of internal transit, develop the riches of the Republic, and foster foreign immigration.

PARAGUAY is not always counted one of the River Plate Republics, being over a thousand miles inland, but we have included it because formerly a part of the vice-royalty, besides being situated on the principal affluent of La Plata, and so intimately connected with Buenos Ayres. It is the country least known of this Continent, and yet had made great advancement in the years just preceding the present war. Up to 1840 it was entirely closed against foreigners, under the rule of the sanguinary tyrant, D. Gaspar Francia. Railways, telegraphs, arsenal, dry docks, and other splendid works sprung up of late, employing a large and efficient staff of English mechanics. The Republic covers about 70,000 square miles, but claims a much larger territory, the frontiers with Brazil, Bolivia, and La Plata not being yet clearly defined. The census of 1857 gives a population of 1,337,449. The climate is warm, the country hilly and picturesque, and the soil fertile. The inhabitants are the most industrious in South America, the amount of land under cereals, cotton, and tobacco amounting to half a million of acres. The chief product of the country is yerba-mate or Paraguay tea, which, in time of peace, is annually exported (mostly to Buenos Ayres) to the value of £200,000. The cultivation of cotton was begun in 1863, but interrupted by the war. The capital, Asuncion, is a town of 25,000 inhabitants, formerly in weekly communication by steamer with the River Plate; it has some fine buildings, but is much behind Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. Villa Rica is the most important town in the interior, and those next in order are situated on the river Paraguay. The language of the country is Guarani, most of the people being descended from that race of Indians by inter-marriage with the Spanish settlers. As yet few foreigners have settled in Paraguay, but the natives are very kind and affable, and the police organization is perfect. The unhappy war which broke out in the beginning of 1865 has been ruinous to Paraguay, but earned for the natives a high reputation for valor.

CHAP. II.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

THIS Republic holds the second rank among South American nations, coming next after the Empire of Brazil in extent and importance, though comparatively low in the scale of population and native industry. There is, probably, no country on the face of the earth so favored by Nature: being entirely situated in the South temperate zone, it enjoys a delightful climate, and the soil is so varied and fertile that it produces almost spontaneously all the great staples of home consumption and foreign commerce. Cotton, wheat, tobacco, yerba-maté, cochineal, wine, coffee, silk, sugar, wool, and fruits of every kind may be raised of a superior quality, and in such abundance as to supply less favored nations. The mineral resources of the country are hardly less important: copper, silver, lead, salt, marble, lime-stone, granite, and coal are found in various places, and only require proper management and improved means of transit to become sources of national wealth. The country is, moreover, magnificently wooded and watered: the Gran Chaco possesses more timber, suitable for every purpose, than the whole of Europe, and the number and extent of navigable rivers are quite equal to the natural greatness and future requirements of a Republic destined one day to rival the Colossus of North America.

There is, unhappily, a sad contrast between what La Plata might be, and what it actually is. It does not export one bale of cotton; its tobacco is unknown; rice is a foreign commodity; yerba-maté from Brazil excludes that from Corrientes; cochineal abounds in Oran, but is not worth the freight; Mendoza wine has no market for the same reason; coffee is considered too troublesome; the spiders of Corrientes weave a fine silk, which no one thinks of gathering; sugar is hardly cultivated; fruits are unprized, and our export returns show but three great staples in the Republic—wool, hides, and tallow.

The Republic comprises fourteen provinces, besides the Gran Chaco; the following table gives their names, extent and population:—

	Square Miles.	Inhabitants.
Buenos Ayres,	70,000	500,000
Entre Rios,	50,000	115,000
Corrientes,	60,000	110,000
Santa Fé,	20,000	50,000
Cordoba,	60,000	150,000
Santiago del Estero,	35,000	115,000
Tucuman,	28,000	98,000
Salta,	50,000	101,000
Jujuy,	30,000	42,000
Catamarca,	35,000	105,000
Rioja,	35,000	43,000
San Juan,	33,000	75,000
Mendoza,	65,000	62,000
San Luis,	20,000	58,000
Gran Chaco,	250,000	40,000
Pampas and Patagonia,	440,000	46,000
Total,	1,281,000	1,710,000

The chief towns are:—

Buenos Ayres,	River Plate,	200,000
Cordoba,	31.25 S. lat.,	25,000
Rosario,	River Paraná,	20,000
Corrientes,	do.,	13,000
Tucuman,	27.10 S. lat.,	12,000
Salta,	24.57,	11,000
San Juan,	Rio San Juan,	12,000

The capital of each province (except Entre Rios) bears the same name, but the above are the only places worthy of note, and the rest have rather retrograded than improved, of late years, owing to the incessant civil wars and want of immigration.

The form of government is very complicated and unwieldy, but shaped after the model of the United States. The National Executive is composed of—President, Domingo F. Sarmiento; Vice-President, Adolfo Alsina; Home Minister, Dr. Dalmacio Velez Sarsfield; Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mariano Varela; Finance, D. Benjamin Gorostiaga; Instruction, Dr. Nicolas Avellaneda; War, Colonel Gainza. The seat of government is Buenos Ayres, where Congress also assembles: there are two Chambers, the

Senators and the Deputies, elected in ratio by the various provinces. Each province has also its own Governor and Legislature, almost independent of the Supreme National authorities, and following no uniform rule. Buenos Ayres has two Provincial Chambers sitting within a stone's throw of the National Parliament; the other provinces have but one. In Cordoba the Governor has three Ministers, in other places there are two, but several provinces boast only one; and each Province has a separate Constitution.

The religion is Roman Catholic. There are about 10,000 Protestants among the foreign community, attached to the English, Scotch, American, and German congregations.

Spanish is spoken throughout the Republic, but Guarani is much in use at Corrientes, Quichua at Santiago, and French and English are becoming very general in Buenos Ayres.

The military service of the Republic is performed by troops of the Line and National Guards or militia. The first consist of ten regiments of infantry, nine of cavalry, and two of artillery, numbering 6,650 men, and they are employed in the defence of the frontiers against the Indians. In the Province of Buenos Ayres, which has a very extensive frontier of 130 leagues, there are three principal cantonments—the town of Azul, south; the Veinte y Cinco de Mayo, west; and Rojas, north. These little towns carry on a brisk trade from the consumption of the troops, and the barter trade with the friendly Indians.

Before the outbreak of the Paraguayan war the troops of the Line were distributed as follows:—

CAVALRY.				
Regiment.		Station.		Strength.
1st,	....	Mendoza,	....	450
2nd,	....	Fraile Muerto,	....	250
3rd,	....	Rojas,	....	250
4th,	....	San Luis,	....	250
5th,	....	25 de Mayo,	....	200
6th,	....	Santa Fé,	....	200
7th,	....	Rio Cuarto,	....	450
8th,	....	Cordoba,	....	150
8th,	....	Melincue,	....	150
8th,	....	Azul,	....	100
Total,				2,450

INFANTRY.

Regiment.	Station.	Strength.
1st,	Buenos Ayres,	350
2nd,	do.,	350
3rd,	Azul,	350
4th,	25 de Mayo,	350
5th,	Tandil,	350
6th,	Rioja,	400
7th,	Buenos Ayres,	350
8th,	Salta,	350
Italian Legion,	Buenos Ayres,	400
Italian Legion,	Azul,	200
Total,		3,450

ARTILLERY.

Martin Garcia,	....	....	....	400
Mendoza, ....	....	....	....	250
Frayle Muerto,	....	....	....	100
San Juan,	....	Rifles,	....
Total,	....	....	....	750

RESUMEN.

In the Provinces,	.....	.....	.....	3,100
In Buenos Ayres,	.....	.....	.....	3,550
Total,	.....	.....	.....	<u>6,650</u>

The National Guard is composed of citizens who are regularly drafted from the country districts, and they guard the intervening redoubts or forts; their term of service is six months, and they are allowed during that period the pay of soldiers in campaign, *i.e.*, \$230 per month. No National Guards from the capital are ever drafted for this service, for they are not always presumed to be, like the country people in the province, first-class horsemen, a necessary qualification for Indian warfare. The National army is composed of the following officers:—7 Brigadier-Generals (the highest rank obtainable in the country), 25 Generals, 217 Commanding-officers, and 605 subordinate officers—total, 854; which is rather more than a due proportion for only 6,650 men.

The National Guards on frontier service last year numbered 1,870 men, and, besides, there were 387 friendly Indians in Government service. The friendship of these Indians is of course exceedingly doubtful; they often steal cattle from the neighboring estancias.

By law, every citizen of the Republic is a National Guard, and liable, under certain circumstances, to be called into active service. The number is as follows:—

Buenos Ayres,	....	....	....	40,165
Entre Rios,	....	....	....	19,314
Corrientes,	....	....	....	9,349
San Luis,	....	....	....	5,404
Santiago,	....	....	....	19,514
Jujuy, ....	....	....	....	2,851
Mendoza,	....	....	....	5,708
San Juan,	....	....	....	6,990
Tucuman,	....	....	....	14,450
Salta, ....	....	....	....	15,091
Cordoba,	....	....	....	8,000
Catamarca,	....	....	....	3,786
Total,	....	....	....	150,622

The Provinces of Santa Fé and La Rioja are not included, in this official estimate, they are supposed to give—the first 6,000 and the second 3,000 men, thus making a grand total of 159,622, which is rather under than over the mark. But although presenting a respectable array in number, they are not nearly as powerful or effective as they should be, under proper organization.

The National debt (including that of Buenos Ayres) is about £12,000,000 sterling, the interest of which is regularly attended to, taking a-fifth of the total revenue. The revenue and expenditure for 1869 will not be under \$14,000,000s., which, for our population, averages \$8 per head, or three times the average of Chili, and our War-office costs over \$8,000,000 or \$5 per head. Let us compare this with the revenue and population of the various states of Europe, from the official Almanac of the United States.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

9

	Population.	Revenue.	Average per Head.
Great Britain,	29,500,000	\$322,000,000	\$10.95
France,	37,500,000	413,000,000	11.00
Russia,	67,000,000	231,000,000	3.40
Austria,	35,000,000	171,000,000	4.88
Prussia,	18,500,000	96,000,000	5.32
Belgium,	4,750,000	26,000,000	5.40
Denmark,	2,750,000	11,000,000	4.00
Italy,	22,500,000	155,000,000	6.95
Holland,	3,500,000	33,000,000	9.40
Portugal,	4,000,000	15,000,000	3.75
Sweden and Norway,	5,250,000	14,000,000	2.65
Switzerland,	2,500,000	3,000,000	1.20
Spain,	16,500,000	97,000,000	5.88
Turkey,	16,500,000	65,000,000	3.95
General total, 265,750,000			\$1,652,000,000
			\$5.20

For the financial year ending 31st March, 1868, the increase was in round numbers \$2,470,000 s., or 26 per cent. on the previous year.

The total expenditure—including 6,500,000 for the Paraguayan war, 1,500,000 for the Interior riots, and 500,000 for amortisation of the public debt—amounted to \$13,920,164. The total income was slightly over \$12,000,000. Thus, it will be seen that were it not for the Paraguayan war, the Government would be in possession of a splendid surplus.

The National Bonds in circulation amount to 15,364,800, of which amount 5,000,000 are held by the Provincial Bank.

With the trifling exception of a direct tax collected in the city of Buenos Ayres, amounting to about \$200,000s., the whole revenue of the National Government is raised by indirect taxation, more than nine-tenths of which are Customs duties, import and export, the proportion being about seven-and-a-half-tenths in import duties, and two-tenths export duties; the small balance is derived from stamps, post-office, and miscellaneous taxes.

In round numbers the four principal provinces of the Confederation contribute to the Customs revenue in the following proportions:—Buenos Ayres, 70; Santa Fé, 10; Corrientes, 5; Entre Rios, 5; the remaining ten being the quota of the other provinces.

The increase in the Customs receipts in Buenos Ayres has been much less in proportion than that of the Provinces of Santa Fé and Corrientes,

a proof that the direct trade with these provinces is augmenting. Taking the revenue in round numbers at 14,000,000, one-half is expended in military purposes. The Ministry of Finance consumes rather less than one-tenth; a large part is expended in collecting the Custom's revenues. As there is only one port of importance this expense is relatively not greater than in other countries, probably not more than 5 per cent. of the revenue collected. Justice, Public Worship, and Education require only one-twelfth, as each separate province has its own administration in these respects. Foreign Affairs and Legations consume only an eightieth part of the revenue. The Ministry of the Interior consumes an eighth of the whole. Of this amount the National Congress and Public Credit figure for more than a third. Finally the interest on the National Debt takes one-fifth of the revenue.

The increase of trade in late years has been unprecedented, as may be seen from the returns of National revenue.

1863,	.....	\$6,478,682
1864,	.....	7,005,328
1865,	.....	8,295,071
1866,	.....	9,568,554

The value of imports and exports was, in 1862, \$45,890,282; and in 1866, \$66,358,551.

The import and export trade returns with Great Britain in 1866 shewed an increase of 26 per cent. over the previous year; those with France 11 per cent.; with Brazil 45 per cent.; with Spain 11 per cent. The only falling off was in imports from the United States and Holland: the trade in American flour has entirely ceased, owing to the cultivation of wheat in the last few years.

Value of Imports,	.....	1865	.....	27,103,017
Do.,	.....	1866	.....	32,269,082

Of imports, we get one-third from England, one-fourth from France, one-eighth from Brazil, and the rest from Spain, United States, Montevideo, and Italy.

The value of the imports in 1866 from England alone amounted to \$10,240,210s., being an excess of 2,234,000 over the imports of the previous year, and more than double those of 1862.

The export returns for 1866 shew an increase of nearly 5 per cent. on the previous year, viz. :—

Value of exports,	.....	1865	.....	21,996,777
Do.,	.....	1866	.....	23,029,711

Of exports, Belgium takes one-third, France one-fourth, United States one-fifth, England one-eighth, and Spain, Italy, and Brazil the rest.

The gross returns of 1866 compared with 1862, shew an increase of 50 per cent. in our commerce, but that with England was nearly doubled in the interval.

The greatest increase in our exports is in wool—

1862	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£58,153,575
1863	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73,592,425
1864	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87,976,776
1865	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115,852,430
1866	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	116,494,970

This includes a small proportion (5 per cent.) of washed wool.

The shipping returns shew that 1,036 sailing vessels, representing 267,213 tons, arrived here from foreign ports during 1866, being an increase of 374 vessels over the returns for 1862. The number of steam-boat arrivals for 1866 is put down at 487; but this does not include the smaller ones of passenger traffic.

Immigration from Europe, up to 1862, averaged 5,000; it now exceeds 25,000 per annum—mostly Italians, French, English, and Spaniards; of these, two-thirds are able-bodied men of the laboring classes, with a sprinkling of women and children, and 10 per cent. educated persons.

There are six railways in the Republic, with 350 miles open to traffic, 190 in construction, and seven other lines projected.

The business of the Buenos Ayres Post-office has increased enormously of late years: the number of letters and papers passing through the office in 1859 was 400,000, in 1862 it rose to 800,000, and in 1865 it amounted to 2,000,000! This last was an increase of 33 per cent. on the previous year.

The population of the city and province of Buenos Ayres in 1801 was set down at 72,000, in 1855 at 271,000 and at present it must be nearly double the last figure. Within the last three years no fewer than 3,550 houses have been built or re-built in the city: in the same period we have to note a similar activity in every branch of industry and progress.

The farming-stock of the Republic is set down, according to statistics of 1866, as follows :—

PROVINCES.	HORNED CATTLE.	HORSES.	ASSES & MULES.	SHEEP.	GOATS.	SWINE.
B. Ayres	6,000,000	1,800,000	30,000	60,000,000	5,000	115,000
Entre Rios ..	2,500,000	600,000	7,500	6,000,000	....	....
Corrientes ..	2,000,000	375,000	60,000	1,000,000	10,000	4,500
Catamarca ...	185,000	40,000	40,000	80,000	121,000	2,500
Mendoza	210,000	71,000	7,500	230,000	70,000	8,500
Salta	255,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	95,000	2,500
San Luis	300,000	96,000	14,000	160,000	285,000	....
Tucuman	275,000	85,000	22,000	95,000	25,000	....
Cordoba, San	....	....	....	....	....	....
Juan, Jujuy,	....	....	....	....	....	....
Rioja, Santa	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fé, Santiago,	....	....	....	....	....	....
no returns.	....	....	....	....	....	....

It may give an idea of the industrial condition of the Republic, to submit a list of the articles forwarded to the Paris Exhibition, and the names of those who gained prizes.

The Central Committee of Buenos Ayres forwarded seventy-four boxes, containing numerous interesting specimens.

Cordoba sent a collection of minerals and samples of marble.

Jujuy sent a variety of valuable woods, manufactured articles, cereals, brandy, indigo, &c.

Tucuman exhibited forty kinds of timber, and various works of handicraft such as tanned hides, plaited reins, an «apero» or native saddle tastefully ornamented, a lady's handkerchief, of lace equal to the finest Valenciennes, and a lot of medicinal roots.

Mendoza came next after Buenos Ayres in the variety of its collection, comprising silver ore, marble, beautiful crystals, honey, wax, preserved fruits, Cuyano wines and liqueurs grown by Messrs. Ponget, Civit, and others, guanaco and silk ponchos, swan's down, ostrich feathers, Alpaca and Vicuña skins, and a pillar of green transparent marble, streaked with red.

Buenos Ayres, of course, occupied the foremost rank—

Messrs. John Hannah, Wilfrid Latham, Martinez de Hoz, Richard Newton, and Pacheco, contributed samples of superior wools. Preserved and salted beef figured largely, especially that of Mr. Oliden, who obtained a gold medal at the London Exhibition of 1862. Mr. Bletcher sent hides tanned and varnished, morocco leather, &c., of beautiful finish and superior quality. Mr. Klappenback's collection of silver and other ores from San

Juan was admirable. Mr Holterhof sent candles from the Barracas factory. Mr. Younger sent some sheepskins from his steam «lavadero.» M. Rouqueaud exhibited calf's foot oil, and other articles, from his establishment. Messrs. Huergo and Durand had a fine sample of native silk. The Rural Association contributed cereals grown at Chivilcoy and Mercedes.

The files of the *Tribuna* and *Standard* represented the press of Buenos Ayres. The prizes were as follows :—

GOLD MEDAL.

Argentine Government, for gold, silver, and copper ores.

SILVER MEDALS.

Mr. Lafone, copper samples.

Bletscher and Co., hides tanned with quebracho.

John Hannah, wool.

Bethe and Hubler, extractum carnis.

BRONZE MEDALS.

Roquet Brothers, silver ores.

Klappenback, silver ores.

The Government, samples of timber.

Stegman Brothers, wool.

Richard Newton, wool.

Wilfrid Latham, wool.

M. Duportal, wool.

Martinez de Hoz, wool.

Macedonio Gras, Alpaca wool.

M. Rouqueaud, calf's foot oil.

The Secretary of Committee, soap.

Tucuman Provincial Company, medicinal herbs.

Thomas Oleden, dried and salted beef.

The Government, for «popular customs» (stuffed gauchos, &c.)

HONORABLE MENTION.

Tucuman Provincial Company, embroidery.

Major Rickard, silver ores.

Carranza, mineral specimens.

General Pacheco, wool and tobacco.

H. Solanet, wool.

Francis Younger, wool.

William Müller, dried beef.

Demaria and Ariza, dried beef.

Ponget, of Mendoza, white wines.

Michel Ponget, white wines.

CHAP. III.

FOREIGN POPULATION.

THE number of foreigners in this country is very great, and every day increasing. The chief centres of European immigration are Buenos Ayres, Santa Fé, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Cordoba, and San Juan.

The foreign population of the Province of Buenos Ayres is estimated at 250,000, distributed as follows:—

Italians,	70,000	Irish,	30,000
Basques,	40,000	English and Scotch,	10,000
French,	30,000	Germans,	10,000
Spaniards,	30,000	Other nationalities,	30,000

This large number of foreigners, forming half the population of the Province of Buenos Ayres, is remarkable: and the foreigner, upon landing, is agreeably astonished to find himself in the midst of a large society of countrymen. Amongst Argentines of the respectable classes, proficiency in foreign languages is considered a necessary qualification; thus, the greater part of the merchants speak English or French.

The English, unquestionably, occupy the foremost place in Buenos Ayres, although their number is relatively so small. Of course, in speaking of English merchants, this is also taken to include Scotch, and a few Irish and North Americans; this community embraces the greatest element of social and commercial importance in Buenos Ayres. A vast amount of the import and export trade passes through their hands, and the commercial interests may be said to be identified with their names.

Englishmen are rarely found here in other than mercantile pursuits; they are the leading merchants, brokers, bankers, shipping agents, &c., but are seldom or never found as sheepfarmers, mechanics, or in humbler positions. They usually make handsome fortunes, live in good style, and get along pleasantly with their fellow-foreigners and townsmen. In another chapter we shall make allusion to the number of British institutions in the city.

The Germans come next after the English in importance and position, being more varied in their callings, and representing much less of the staple trade of the country. There are several first-class German houses in the city, besides a number of «barraqueros,» brewers, shopkeepers, clerks, and tradesmen. As a rule, they are all well educated, and very apt for business, usually possessing three or four languages fluently. Under the title «Germans» are generally included also Swedes, Danes, Dutch, and Belgians. In some of the country towns of the Upper Provinces we find an occasional German shopkeeper, in Cordoba there are sundry goat-breeders, in the Province of Buenos Ayres a few are estancieros, and the colonies of Baradero and Santa Fé are in part made up of Germans.

The French prefer the city to the country, and have a monopoly of fancy bazaars and such like; the only merchants are those in the wine trade with Bordeaux or Cette; there is a number of hotel-keepers, tailors, milliners, hair-dressers, and mechanics. In the little towns the French are very numerous, and they are generally industrious and enterprising: they assimilate more with the people of the country than either Germans or English. Many of the charitable institutions are in charge of the French Sisters of Charity. Throughout the Upper Provinces there is a large sprinkling of French, usually innkeepers, mechanics, or small tradesmen.

The Irish, although exercising little or no weight in public matters, may contend with any other nationality in point of usefulness. They have not, it is true, the position or advantages of their mercantile brethren, nor the versatility of the Basques in accommodating themselves to any calling or occupation; but to them is due the grand development of sheepfarming, which makes this country rival Australia in the growth of wool. The Irish farmers are estimated to possess nearly 30,000,000 sheep: they are also, as farmers, the chief landed proprietors in Buenos Ayres, and very hospitable to strangers. The districts of Lujan, Mercedes, Pilar, Areco, Lobos, &c., are thickly settled with Irishmen, and each district has its own Irish clergyman. With one or two exceptions, the Irish settlers began life (within the last thirty years) having no other capital than a spade or shovel. There is nothing in the country more admirable than the steady industry of these men, some of whom count their sheep by the hundred-thousand, and have landed property of thousands of acres in extent. In the city there is a large number of Irish housemaids, who are remarkable for their uniform morality, honesty, and good conduct.

The Basques are highly valued as immigrants: they come from either side of the Pyrénées, and may be classified into French Basques and Spanish Basques, both having almost the same language and national character. They are hardy, honest, and laborious, and are found in every occupation of the middle or humbler classes. After the Italians, they form the largest foreign population. As brick-makers, milkmen, shepherds, saladero peons, &c., they constitute a most useful class, and their good conduct is quite proverbial. Many of them have risen in the social scale, and some large fortunes and valuable enterprises are held by Basques.

The Spaniards are with difficulty distinguished from the natives. They come mostly from Andalusia, Catalonia, and Galicia. The Catalans are wine merchants and first-rate business men. The Andalusians are cigar sellers and shop-keepers. The Galicians are street porters, night watchmen, newspaper messengers, and domestic servants: they are sober and honest, but not very enterprising.

The Italians are the most numerous class of all, and may be found in every occupation of city life, and also scattered through every part of the vast territory. Finding here a similarity of language and climate to their own, the Italians make the River Plate their favored place of colonization. As masons and builders they are specially useful, and the various splendid piles of building raised within the last ten years have given them an active business. In the humbler calling of market-gardeners they also supply the city with vegetables and earn a profitable livelihood.

The monopoly of the river navigation and coasting crafts is in the hands of Genoese; the crew are generally equal sharers in the venture, and appoint a «patron» or captain to command, and trade on their own account, purchasing cheese, birds, skins, fruit, &c. in the upper markets, to bring to Buenos Ayres or Montevideo. They construct their own ships in the suburb of the Boca, where they have formed a rapidly rising town of about 5,000 inhabitants.

In the Upper Provinces the number of foreign settlers is very small; still there are a few scattered here and there, viz.:—

In Salta, chiefly Bolivians; who come there for the purposes of trade, and on account of the political convulsions of their own republic: similitude of origin, climate, soil, and productions, as well as the

proximity to their own frontiers, accounts for their preference of this province. The Colony of Esquina Grande, situated at the head waters of the Vermejo, is almost exclusively composed of natives of Bolivia.

In Mendoza and San Juan, there are not many Europeans, but a considerable number of Chilians, who are engaged principally in the mines.

In Cordoba there are about a thousand foreigners, chiefly French, Germans, Italians, and Spaniards, and a few English; their occupation is in the mines, flour mills, lime kilns, and as mechanics and goat-breeders.

In Entre Rios and Corrientes there is a large number of foreigners. Many of them are wealthy, and their occupations are so varied, that they are to be found in every branch of industry and trade. In Entre Rios there is a number of English estancieros. The Province of Santa Fé has three thriving colonies, that of Entre Rios two, and that of Buenos Ayres one.

The Committee of Immigration have agents in various parts of Europe, viz.:—

Mr. Beck Bernard, Berne; for Switzerland and Germany.

Mr. John Lelong, Paris; for France.

Mr. Lloyd, of Messrs. Wright, Kelso, & Co., Liverpool.

Mr. Hadfield, and Messrs. T. M. Mackay & Son, London.

Mr. Perkins, Montreal, Canada.

The Committee have a Home for Emigrants at No. 8 Calle Corrientes, where they get food and lodging gratis till they find employment.

Free immigration is the rule: neither the Government nor the Committee assist in paying passages from Europe.

The current of emigration from Europe is rapidly increasing, as we see by the returns, as follows:—

1858,	....	4,658	1863,	....	10,400
1859,	....	4,715	1864,	....	11,680
1860,	....	5,656	1865,	....	11,770
1861,	....	6,300	1866,	....	13,960
1862,	....	6,716	1867,	....	23,500

The relative proportion of the various nationalities in 1837 was—Italians, 38 per cent.; French, 13; Spaniards, 9; English, 6; Swiss, 4; Germans, 3; other nationalities, 27 per cent.

The number of vessels and passengers from foreign ports in 1867 is given as follows :—

	Vessels.	Passengers.
Genoa,	61	8,314
Bordeaux,	55	2,409
Bayonne,	13	1,800
Havre,	25	627
Marseilles,	30	1,156
Vigo,	3	500
Corunna,	5	563
Barcelona,	33	174
Tarragona,	6	45
Cadiz,	24	1,302
Liverpool,	64	815
Glasgow,	18	74
London,	6	25
Southampton,	12	150
Antwerp,	17	1,688
Hamburg,	68	227
Bremen,	2	31
Transhipped at Montevideo	....	3,600
Total	441	23,500

In the report of the Immigration Committee the following scale of wages is given, and the figures are not exaggerated :—

Farm servants,	Monthly, with Board,	£3 5s.
Gardeners,	do., do.,	£4 to £5
House Servants,	do., do.,	£2 10s. to £3
Cooks,	do., do.,	£3 to £4
Needle-women,	do., do.,	£3
Milliners,	do., do.,	£3 to £4
Laundresses,	do., do.,	£3
Brick-layers,	Daily, without Board,	6s. 6d.
Carpenters,	do., do.,	7s. 6d.
Blacksmiths,	do., do.,	7s. 6d.
Tailors,	do., do.,	6s. to 10s.
Shoemakers,	do., do.,	7s. 6d.
Railway navvies,	do., do.,	8s.
Saladero peons,	do., do.,	12s. to £1 4s.

The cost of a mechanic's board and lodging does not exceed three shillings a day. Workmen of all kinds find immediate employment, and the new railways will require thousands of navvies. Any number of farm-laborers, married or unmarried, will find plenty of work on the estancias of Buenos Ayres. Domestic servants are much wanted in town, and women are preferred.

Nothing can better shew the prosperity of immigrants than the official return of depositors in the State Bank of Buenos Ayres. Of 100 depositors the various nationalities were thus represented :—

Italians,	30	French,	9
Argentines,	18	English and Irish,	4
Spaniards,	13	Germans,	4
Basques,	13	Various,	9

The proportion of moneys so lodged was distributed as follows—out of every 100,000,000 paper dollars deposited, the owners were :—

Argentines,	27,000,000	Basques,	9,000,000
Italians,	20,000,000	French,	8,000,000
English and Irish,	14,000,000	Germans,	6,000,000
Spaniards,	10,000,000	Various,	6,000,000

It must be borne in mind that besides the depositors in bank there are thousands of industrious Europeans who have invested their savings in land and farming stock. Many of the Irish settlers, as in North America, send home sums of money to their relatives, to support them or pay their passage hither. The Irish housemaids in town have also accounts in the Savings-banks.

The Italians, as a rule, practise the greatest economy, to accumulate a fortune of £500 or £1,000; and, this attained, they return to their native land. The French, on the contrary, as soon as they have made some money, start a mill or some such enterprise, and settle for good in the country.

CHAP. IV.

AGRICULTURAL COLONIES.

Besides the numberless foreign settlers established as sheepfarmers, or in other occupations, there are six agricultural colonies founded by capitalists or Provincial Governments, on given concessions of land. In Santa Fé there are three colonies, in Entre Rios two, and in Buenos Ayres one, viz. :—

SANTA FÉ.

Esperanza,	1627 colonists,	....	Eight Leagues from Santa Fé.
San Jeronimo,	800 do.,	....	Two Leagues from Esperanza.
San Carlos,	735 do.,	....	Two Leagues from S. Jeronimo.

Santa Fé is the province which has done most for colonisation, and its colonies are in a thriving way. The soil is fertile, watered by numerous rivers and «arroyos,» which abound in fish. The Governor of Santa Fé gives a free passage by steamer from Buenos Ayres to all mechanics or settlers bound for Rosario or Santa Fé city, or other part of the province. The port for the colonies is Santa Fé, which has weekly communication with Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Corrientes, and the smaller ports.

The *Esperanza Colony*, founded by D. Aaron Castellanos in 1856: the first settlers were Germans, who brought with them a clergyman, a director, and a schoolmaster. In 1858 the Argentine Government took the colony under its protection, indemnifying Sr. Castellanos with £24,000 sterling. The first years were unfortunate, owing to the locusts; but the colony is now flourishing. It is composed of 355 families, counting 1,627 colonists, viz. :—

Swiss,	....	852	Belgians,	....	69
Germans,	....	456	Italians,	....	23
French,	....	207	Various,	....	20

In 1865 the colony had 85 births, 28 deaths, and 28 marriages.

There are in the colony a Catholic chapel, another for Protestants, two schools, and 474 dwelling-houses, each house having a well of excellent water. The number of farm-lots occupied is 210, each containing 85 acres English. There is a vast extent of ground in this colony as yet unallotted.

The yield for 1865 was as follows :—

Wheat,	5,895 fan. (350℔)	Vegetables, dried, 754 fan.
Indian corn, . . .	12,370 do.	Butter, 653 cwt.
Barley,	240 do.	Cheese, 600 do.
Potatoes,	1,200 do.	

This produced, after deducting for home use, a market value of £30,000. The number of fruit-trees, mostly peaches, is put down at 100,000, and the vines have given such good results that new plantations are being made.

The stock, in 1865, comprised :—

Cows and oxen,	8,000	Pigs, 710
Horses and mules,	1,700	Poultry, 2,500
Sheep, 708		Beehives, 20

The colonists exported during the year, 55 brls. of flour, 545 cow-hides, and 625℔ of hair. The occupations we find thus distributed—19 groceries and draperies, 9 carpenter-shops, 6 brick-layers, 5 blacksmiths, 4 midwives, 4 bootmakers, 4 mills, 3 tailors, 2 inns, 3 brick-kilns, 1 baker, 1 doctor, 1 brewer, 2 steam mills, 2 windmills, 1 sawing, 6 reaping, 2 threshing, and 10 winnowing machines, 220 dairies.

The *San Jeronimo Colony* is two leagues from that of Esperanza, comprising 157 families, which count 753 colonists, settled on 181 farm-lots of 85 acres each. In the concession there is still a large tract of ground ready for any who may join the colony. The returns for 1865 were :—

Swiss,	644 colonists.	Italians,	10 colonists.
Germans.	67 do.	North Americans, 3	do.
French,	13 do.	Natives,	3 do.
Belgians,	13 do.		

Births 19, deaths 10, marriages 2.

The colony boasts a church, school, and 165 dwelling houses. There are 5 shops, 3 mills, 3 blacksmiths, 4 carpenters, 1 brewer, 1 butcher, 3 shoe-makers, 1 mason, 1 gunsmith—but most of these artisans devote their chief attention to agriculture. The number of fruit trees is put down at 30,000.

The crops for 1865 gave :—

Wheat,	2,000 fanegas.	Butter,	200 cwt.
Indian corn,	3,000 do.	Cheese,	200 do.
Oats,	10 do.	Poultry,	1,000
Potatoes,	500 do.	Eggs,	845,000
Vegetables,	48 do.		

The stock comprised :—

Cows or oxen,	3,000	Pigs,	331
Horses,	570	Hens and ducks,	2,150
Sheep,	14		

The *San Carlos Colony* is situate 8 leagues S.W. of Santa Fé, 6 south of Esperanza, and 5½ N.W. of Coronda; the last named is a port on a branch of the Parana. Only a small part of the concession (which comprises 330 lots) is yet taken up by settlers, but there are 130 farm-lots, of 85 acres, under cultivation. Every alternate lot belongs to the concessionaires, but they allow the use of same to the colonists for grazing purposes. There are 130 families, with 735 colonists :—

Swiss,	393	Germans,	19
Italians,	204	Natives,	24
French,	95		

Of these there were 266 men, 203 women, and 266 children. Births 35, deaths 4, marriages 8. The colony boasts a church, 3 schools, and 210 houses. There are 6 shops, 2 mills, 1 carpenter and 1 blacksmith. The industry of butter and cheese is rapidly increasing, the Swiss and French families occupying themselves therein.

The stock comprised—

Cows and oxen,	3,908	Horses,	786
Sheep,	26	Swine,	270
Hens,	3,000	Fruit trees,	83,753

The Santa Fé Government is always willing to extend the concession for any new settlers that may offer, and the alternate lots belonging to the concessionaires are sold at reasonable prices, the preference being given to the colonists. The colony has easy communication in all seasons with San Jeronimo, Esperanza, and the port of Coronda. Steam traffic is about to be established between Santa Fé and Coronda; but if the steamers would call at Maciel this would be only four and a half leagues from the colony.

The gross returns of produce sent into Santa Fé, in 1865, by the three colonies, were—

Wheat,	60,000 cwt.	Butter and cheese, 3,000 cwt.
Indian corn,	20,000 do.	Eggs, 200,000 doz.
Oats,	5,000 do.	Fowl, not stated.
Vegetables,	7,000 do.	

The butter was valued at £8,000 sterling, the eggs at £12,000, and the cheese at an equally high figure. Meantime, the produce of the colonies increases every year in a wonderful manner, and the value of their lands has been enhanced fully 25 per cent. by the opening of the Rosario and Cordoba Railway.

Mr. Perkins, formerly editor of the *Ferro-Carril* of Rosario, published a valuable and interesting work in Spanish and English on this subject. At the invitation of Governor Cullen he started from Rosario, in November, 1863, to make a tour of the colonies, and his narrative bears the marks of truth. At Lake Guadalupe, close to Santa Fé, he visited the fish oil factory, where he estimates 5,000 barrels of oil may be produced annually, without seriously reducing the fish, which are sold at one real (6*d.*) per arroba (25*℔*). Here also is a small colony of wealthy Germans, who preferred purchasing this site to taking the free Government lands.

In company with M. Henri, Mr. Perkins set out for the Esperanza Colony, distant twenty miles from the capital of the province. This was the first of all the colonies, and established by D. Aaron Castellanos. The settlers were at first rather unfortunate, being mostly ignorant and indigent people; but patience and experience have aided them, and the colony is now flourishing. There are—says Mr. Perkins—345 families, making up a population of 756 Franco-Swiss and 805 Germans, of whom two-thirds are Roman Catholics, and one-third Protestants. The colony is a parallelogram of thirty-two square miles, divided into concessions of eighty acres each: the whole is bisected by a common for grazing, 400 yards broad and six miles long, the Germans being on one side, and the Franco-Swiss on the other. There are over 9,000 acres under crops, the amount sown being estimated as follows:—wheat, 3,150 bushels; barley, 250; Indian corn, 35,000; beans and peas, a little; potatoes, none. The stock comprises—1,569 horses, 396 oxen, 2,305 cows, 3,700 calves, 500 sheep, and 600 pigs. The plaza is well built, containing a Catholic chapel, and a Protestant one in construction, besides other edifices and three schools; but the latter are badly attended, the children being made to work.

Two American gentlemen named Evans and Shafter, lately settled in the colony, and brought reaping and threshing machines, and other American improvements, into general use: one of these machines can grain 200 quintals per day. The woods being fifteen miles off, few of the concessions are fenced in, and some are so with wire. There are one vineyard and several gardens. The crops for this year—(1863)—are valued at \$115,000 s. Cheese, butter, eggs, fowls, and vegetables are raised; but the supply would be much greater if cheap transport could be procured. One family has an income of \$400 s. from butter alone, which they sell at 6*d.* to 9*d.* per *lb.*, the same being worth 2*s.* in Rosario and 3*s.* in Buenos Ayres. The annual produce in eggs is 160,000 dozen. There are two wind-mills, and several water-mills. The people live simply but substantially, consuming little animal food. Every family has a two-horse four-wheeled waggon, and some have two or more. There is a trifling disagreement in the colony about mixed marriages. It is remarked that the Franco-Swiss have thrived better than the Germans.

The San Jeronimo Colony was founded so late as 1862, by a number of Swiss from the Canton of Valais, each of whom brought some money; from £80 to £800 sterling. They paid all their own expenses, and only received from Government the usual land grant of eighty acres per family. The colony covers 9,000 acres, occupied by eighty-five families, counting 462 souls: of these, one half are new arrivals, and have as yet no wheat crops. There are sown 284 bushels of wheat, and a good deal of barley. The people are sober and industrious, good Catholics, moral and respectful, and superior to those of Esperanza. They have already a fine church, built by subscription of 5,000 bricks each, and several good brick houses. Each family has about twenty cows and horses, but no sheep. They make excellent butter and cheese, the latter fetching \$12 per cwt. The colonists pay the expenses of an agent, who goes backwards and forwards to Switzerland, bringing out new families for the colony. A man formerly working at the Esperanza as farm-servant, has settled here, and is now worth £1,000. San Jeronimo is half way between Esperanza and San Carlos, and Mr. Perkins gives it the preference of all.

The San Carlos Colony was founded in May 1859, by the commercial house of Messrs. Beck and Herzog of Basle, assisted by a company, which purchased some of the shares and advanced the capital. The emigrants were of a lower order, like those of Esperanza, and all their expenses, maintenance, implements, stock, seeds, &c., were most liberally supplied and paid for by the company. Each family got a free passage, 160 acres

of land, horses, cows, &c., on condition of paying to the company every year (for five years) one-third of their crops, cultivating sixteen acres the first year, and so on. The half of each lot, *i.e.*, 40 acres, is set apart for grazing, and after the fifth year this remains the property of the company, the other half passing in fee to the settler. The colony covers thirty-seven square miles, or 26,000 acres, in 165 double lots, and is situate midway from Coronda to Santa Fé, and three leagues south of San Jeronimo. The population is 556 souls, in 100 families, of whom one-half are Protestants. All bear an excellent character, except two or three drunkards. In the year 1862 there were nine deaths and thirty-two births. The colony is most prosperous and healthful. A Swiss named Goetchi landed in 1859, owing the company \$500, and he has now paid all, and is worth £1,000 sterling: others show similar good fortune, the sheer fruit of industry. The stock amounts to—2,531 horned cattle, 649 horses, 265 pigs. The company, on its own account, took up 800 sheep from Buenos Ayres in 1860, lost 200 after arrival, and still counted 1,600 in 1863. The wheat crop in 1863 yielded 37,000 bushels; the maize, barley, &c., is estimated at 8,000 quintals. There are public offices, church, model farm, gardens, and peach plantations.

Mr. Perkins advises the adoption of traction engines for transport, and estimates the aggregate annual produce of the colonies as follows:—Wheat, 56,000 cwt.; maize, 15,000; barley, 5,000; vegetables, 2,000; butter, 800 cwt.; eggs, 1,000 cwt.; cheese, 2,000; various, 5,000—total, 86,800 cwt.

Respecting the San Carlos colony, we have some interesting particulars in the report of M. Jacques Stelzer, Justice of the Peace:—

«Among the most comfortable families I may mention that of Sigel, with its handsome house on the right of the high road. This family is of German origin, and arrived in 1859: it counts 7 persons, the youngest 12 years of age. Mr. Sigel is a laborious and intelligent man, assisted by his children, who are already able to guide the plough: from the beginning he has had good crops, especially that of 1866, when grain fetched 12 and even 16 dollars per «fanega.» In that year he was enabled to pay off all he owed to the Company, and has thus been free of the 18 per cent. which less fortunate colonists still have to pay. Moreover he wrought at his trade of wheelwright, which gives him a good revenue. The Sigel family now owns 94 horned cattle, 21 horses, and 50 hens, besides laying down this year 14 «almudes» of wheat, 50 acres of maize, and planting 5,000 fruit-trees. The Sigel concession is the best in the colony.

«The Taverna family, comprising Michael Taverna, his wife, and

4 little children, the eldest 12 and the youngest 14 months old, and a partner named John Bonetti. This family owes its prosperity to the experience of Taverna, the order and frugality of his wife, and the constant and careful labor of Bonetti: they arrived in 1859, and now possess a fine brick house, 40 head of horned cattle, 12 horses, 14 pigs, and 50 hens, besides a farm of 60 «almudes» of wheat, 45 acres of maize and vegetables, and 2,000 fruit-trees.

«The Haemmerly family, of Swiss origin, arrived in 1859; at first comprised Albert Haemmerly, his wife, three sons, and two daughters, all of an age to work: the wife died in 1862, and all the children have got married and purchased concessions for themselves, except the youngest son, who has remained with his father. Haemmerly has a neat house, 60 head of horned cattle, 20 horses, 4 pigs, 40 hens, besides cultivating 35 «almudes» of wheat, 25 acres of maize, and 3,000 fruit-trees.

«The Reuteman family, Swiss-Germans, is composed of 9 members, including 7 children from 2 to 18 years of age: the concession is surrounded with poplars, paradise, and some 4,000 fruit-trees. This family owns 84 head of horned cattle, 10 horses, 1 pig, and 100 poultry, besides a farm of 65 «almudes» of wheat and 45 acres of maize and vegetables.

«The Reale family, of Italian origin, counts 11 members, with a fine house and out-offices, 60 horned cattle, 12 horses, 13 pigs, 60 poultry, and a farm of 40 «almudes» of wheat and 80 acres of maize, but only a few fruit-trees.

«The Goetschy family, of Swiss origin, owns 83 horned cattle, 6 horses, 20 hens, and a farm of 48 «almudes» of wheat, with 2,000 fruit-trees, and a fence of poplars and paradise trees.

«These are the families specially deserving honorable mention in my official report, without prejudice to the many other honest and hard-working people in the Colony. I have mentioned those most remarkable for their fine appearance, good houses, and superior cultivation, hoping you will permit me at another time to specify other families in prosperous condition, in all which details you may rely on my adhering strictly to the facts.»

The success of these colonies soon stimulated the Santa Fé Government to offer concessions in various parts of the Province for similar settlements, and Governor Oroño, during his term of office, labored strenuously to foment immigration. Unfortunately, the Paraguayan war checked the formation of new colonies, and the projects have either lapsed, or still

remain 'in statu quo.' Sor. Oroño, while Deputy to Congress, in July, 1864, introduced a bill as follows:—

1st. To emit £400,000 in 6 per cent. Bonds, negociable at 75 per cent.

2nd. To bring out 1,000 families of the farming class from Europe, to supply them with provisions, animals, and farming implements, during one year; to build houses and a school for each colony.

3rd. Each immigrant family to comprise five individuals, and receive two oxen, one horse, three fanegas of wheat, two of potatoes, one of maize, two ploughs, and provisions for twelve months. Each family to get a grant of twenty-four cuadras (100 acres) of land for ever, and this as well as all produce to be free of taxes for twenty years.

4th. After four years the colonists to begin to re-imburse these expenses, paying to Government one-fifth of the amount until satisfied.

The project was thrown out by Congress, but about the same time the Santa Fé Legislature, made a grant of 200 square leagues to a German Company, which assumed the name of «The Argentine Land and Emigration Co., Limited,» and published the following prospectus:—

«The capital of the present company is £500,000, and the company is to secure the land grant made by Government, by sending out ten thousand families to form agricultural colonies within the period of ten years.

«The lands granted by Government to the concessionaires are to be situated on the Parana and Salado, their exact locality to be fixed by the company's surveyor.

«The Government agrees to convey, on the arrival of every 200 families, six square leagues.

«The colonists are to be Germans and Irishmen.

«The Government makes a free grant of 200 square leagues of land, of which 106½ leagues are to be distributed among the immigrants, and the balance, 193½ leagues, becomes the free property of the company.»

Nothing has since been heard of the company, but it is possible that on the conclusion of the war the project may be revived.

In September 1866, a concession was given to Sor. Calvari for the introduction of a number of Italians to colonize the Gran Chaco. Sundry German and French enterprises of the same kind also sprung up, of which we shall speak more fully in treating of the Gran Chaco. There is at present a project to establish a colony at the Guardia Esquina, situate on the Rio Tercero: this river may be made navigable, and the colony will be within easy reach of the Rosario and Cordoba railway.

Another newly-projected colony, in the neighborhood of the town of San José, has received the name of «San José de la Esquina,» where eighty

acres of land will be given to any person, on the sole condition of its being cultivated, and of their bringing a couple of oxen, a pair of horses, and the necessary agricultural implements. An extra inducement to settlers is held out by a promise of four pounds of meat daily, to be given gratuitously to each family during the first year. The town of San José, near the banks of the Paraná, has about 400 inhabitants. The colonists must fence in their lots, make a well, and plant fifty trees: for five years they will be exempt from all taxes. The distribution of the lands will be made by the following committee:—Messrs. Aaron Castellanos, Pedro Ramayo, Colonel Rodriguez, Joaquin Lejarza, Santiago Recaño, Nicolas Sotomayor, and Francisco Oliva.

ENTRE-RIOS.

General Urquiza signalized his administration no less by his opening the rivers to the flags of all nations, than by his efforts for immigration. The province of Entre-Rios has two colonies, that of San José being the largest in the River Plate.

San José Colony stands 7 leagues north of the town of Concepcion, on the banks of the Uruguay: it has a convenient port, of safe anchorage, and the town which is springing up there is to be called after the discoverer of the New World. The colony counts 200 Swiss, 125 French, 54 Italian, and 15 German families, comprising 2280 persons. The returns for 1863, were—113 births, 33 deaths, 11 marriages. The professions of the colonists, were—22 shop-keepers, 16 masons, 17 carpenters, 7 shoemakers, 6 tailors, 6 blacksmiths, 4 tinsmiths, 5 mechanics, 1 gunsmith, 1 boiler-maker, 1 sawyer, 2 mills, 1 steam-mill, 1 oil-press. The colony boasts a church, a school, and 257 brick houses, valued at £26,000 sterling: there is also a church in construction on the site of the intended town. The concessions are 16 cuadras (70 acres) each. Uncultivated lots are sold at \$10 (30s.) the cuadra, the purchaser being charged 18 per cent. interest per annum till the amount be discharged. There are 3,200 cuadras of land occupied, and 1,600 under cultivation; fruit-trees 112,000.

The average annual yield is—

Wheat and oats, 30,150 fanegas.	Tobacco, 5 tons.
Indian corn, . . . 15,000 do.	Sweet potatoes, . . . 300 do.
Potatoes, 120 tons.	Butter, 120 do.
Mani, 180 do.	Eggs, 170,000 doz.

Besides cheese, melons, peas, beans, &c., in abundance.

The crops of 1865 were so prolific that wheat gave from 35 to 40 fold, barley 30 to 50, and Indian corn three to four hundred fold. The returns of stock were—

Cows and oxen,	6,860	Hens,	21,500
Horses,	1,141	Bee hives,	170
Swine,	629		

A «cuadra» of *mani* will give a yield of $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons, and the oil extracted from this nut is of excellent quality: hence this is a lucrative article. Ricino is a plant that grows in abundance almost without cultivation; it is now extensively planted, both for the raising of silk-worms and for the oil it contains; a cuadra will give two to three tons. The cultivation of cotton was tried, but without success; the great danger is that of drought, and if the irrigation be improved this industry will be again tried: as much as 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ of cotton have been got from a single plant well-watered. The tobacco crop is highly satisfactory, while requiring much care: a «cuadra» gives, sometimes, a ton of very good tobacco. The milk, butter, and cheese of the colony are first-rate, and some of the colonists make £40 to £60 sterling a year, out of these items, in supplying the towns of Concepcion, Paysandú, &c. The colonists also find a ready market for their eggs, and the supply of honey promises to be soon very considerable.

The *Colony of Villa Urquiza* is situate six leagues above the city of Paraná, on the Paraná river. The river bank here rises to a high hill. On ascending this hill we see a beautiful, undulating, country. The concessions are about 30 acres each, but there is no limit to the number that one man may own if he cultivate them. The houses are chiefly «ranchos,» though some better houses of brick, with azotea roofs, are already built.

The chief produce is wheat. Every concession is fenced in, the forest affording the material; sometimes many concessions form one single field of wheat. When the year has been favorable the crop gives 20 to 25 bushels to the acre. It is reaped by machinery.

Cotton has not done well, not for any defect in the soil or climate, but for the uncertainty of obtaining hands on the emergency, for picking. But for this, cotton would pay better than wheat. Land, cattle, and horses, are very low in price. Pasturage, a little way out from the Colony, is abundant. The colonists send to market in large quantities wheat, maize, potatoes, butter, and cheese.

Mr. Forrest and Mr. Russell have bought largely of these lands, and will reap this year some hundreds of acres of wheat. In the course of another year a large accession of immigrants is expected.

The official returns for 1865 are—

«Extent of concession, 6,700 acres: colonists, Swiss 20, Germans 32, French 8, Italians 5, and Belgians 6, families; in all comprising 355 persons, who occupy 232 chacra lots, and have plantations of peach, orange, plum, and fig trees. The colonists are made up of gardeners, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, shoemakers, and small dealers. The total stock does not exceed 2,500 head. The annual crop averages 3,000 fanegas wheat, besides maize, potatoes, vegetables, cotton, and tobacco. The tobacco is superior to that of Paraguay; it gave this year a fine crop, which was readily sold at 18*d.* per *lb.* wholesale. This industry is increasing.» The American preceptor, Mr. Rau, gives the following report (1867):—

«It is a farming colony of about 560 persons, of whom 100 are natives, 200 European Roman Catholics, and the remaining 260 are Protestants, chiefly Europeans. A few Americans are also settled here, and arrangements are made for the settlement of many more American families. The colony is in its infancy, and most of the farmers are poor. During the last few years some of the crops have not been good, and the first houses built by the immigrants have, in very few instances, given place to better ones.

«We have received from the local Government a free concession of a building lot, 200 'varas' in front, and 200 'varas' in depth, making about eight English acres. This ground is finely situated. It is already fenced, and on it we have erected a small house, sufficient for a temporary residence for the Minister. A well has also been dug, in which abundance of good water has been found. We have a contract with a responsible party for the erection of the church, which will cost £300 sterling, and the edifice, when finished, will be occupied for a school also. The minister, being supported as such, gives his labours free as a teacher.»

The enterprise at Villa de Urquiza is one of the «misiones» under the charge of the Rev. W. Goodfellow, D.D., of this city, and from the society that he represents the colony receives help in all these projects.

Besides the above colonies, General Urquiza talks of establishing another on that part of his lands lying between his palace of San José and the town of Concepcion, the settlement to be bisected by a railway, with German settlers on one side, and Irish on the other.

BUENOS AYRES.

The *Swiss Colony* of Baradero is about two miles N.W. of the port of that name on the Paraná, standing on high and uneven ground in a bend of the river bluffs, and commanding a fine prospect. The Arrecifes river, which

abounds in fish, washes one side of the concession, giving water at all seasons to the cattle; as the stream is only sixty feet wide there is easy passage to a beautiful island which has excellent pastures even in the greatest drought. This island is public property, and measures ten leagues by three.

In 1856 the first Swiss colonists arrived, and some of these hard-working men (according to the official report before Government) have been able to make as much as £800 to £1,000 sterling. They are intelligent gardeners, and the soil is so productive that they have raised sweet potatoes weighing as much as a pound and a-half each, while the melons, cabbages, and other vegetables are equally large, and grow in abundance. Potatoes constitute the most profitable of their crops. Some experiments in tobacco turned out so well that the growers were awarded a silver medal at the Agricultural Exhibition of Buenos Ayres in 1856. Mani and linseed have given good results, the first surprisingly so; still, the colonists find potatoes to need less care, and this is their great staple, yielding two crops a year; they also raise sweet potatoes, maize, wheat, and barley. Trees come on admirably, especially peaches, and so favored is the soil of the locality that even palm trees (which are always found in hotter latitudes) are readily acclimatized. Some of the settlers make butter and cheese, for which there is a constant market, either at Baradero or San Pedro; the latter port is six miles North of the colony. The boatmen of the coasting trade are also good customers of the colonists, buying their produce to take down to Buenos Ayres or elsewhere. The colonists know that the greater their produce the readier market they find.

The Municipality of Baradero provide new comers with board and lodging till putting them in possession of their lots. Every able-bodied man receives a lot, 200 varas on each side, about eight acres in extent, on condition of ditching it round, planting a few trees, making himself a hut or «rancho,» and cultivating the ground within a year; if a settler has grown-up sons, each of them may have a similar lot, merely applying to the Municipality for same. The colony counts 873 souls.

Germans,	....	45	Men,	....	300
Swiss, ....	....	260	Women,	....	293
French,	....	67	Children,	....	280
Italians,	....	119	Catholics,	....	692
Spaniards,	....	37	Protestants,	....	181
Argentines,	....	345			

The concession may be put down at 10,000 acres, of which one-half is already allotted: there are 18 chacra lots of 12 acres, and 374 of eight

acres, besides 236 garden lots of two acres each; all these are fenced in with wood and wire, and have a ditch. The price is 800 paper dollars per cuadra (30s. per acre), or the rent \$90 (15s.) per chacra lot of eight acres, per annum.

The colony has a school, 36 azotea houses, and 285 thatched ranchos; the plantations comprise 63,300 fruit-trees. There are 2 mills, 6 dairies, 3 masons, 3 carpenters, 2 blacksmiths.

The crops for 1864 were—

Wheat,	.... 1,091 fan.	Peas,	.... 50 tons.
Barley,	.... 1,000 do.	Beans,	.... 30 do.
Maize,	.... 8,104 do.	Butter,	.... 50 cwt.
Potatoes,	.... 868 tons.	Cheese,	.... 75 do.
Sweet potatoes,	.... 17 do.	Eggs,	.... 19,500 doz.

The farming-stock comprises—750 cows, 9,000 sheep, 100 swine, 1,050 horses, 2,990 hens.

The practical proof of the success of this colony is given in a personal detail of the present condition of many of its members. Some of these poor, but persevering people, on their arrival had a little money, which they invested in cows, horses, bullocks, and fowl. For the first year, they lived in miserable mud ranchos, earning a subsistence by selling eggs and butter, and often having no meat to eat but biscacha flesh. The earliest comers were French-Swiss; but the greater number of those who arrived from 1858 to 1861 were German-Swiss. Out of the list of those given by Señor Piñero—to the number of 14—we select a few examples:—

John Tenoud, French-Swiss, a farmer in his native land, of the Roman Catholic religion, and 49 years of age on his arrival here, with eleven in family, possesses now a capital of 300,000 paper dollars, the greater part of which is put to interest or laid out in sheep.

James Cardineaux, French-Swiss, Roman Catholic, farmer in his own country, 30 years of age on his arrival, with a family of six persons, has now a capital of 150,000 paper dollars placed at interest and invested in sheep.

Amongst the second lot of eight families came Claudio Jamer, a Frenchman, who had kept a small wine and flour store in France, 45 years old on his arrival, with one grown-up son, holds to-day a mill, worked by mules, in which he has invested 43,000 paper dollars, and is finishing the erection of a wind-mill, brought by himself during the past year from France. This mill cost 25,000 paper dollars; he has two plots of farm-ground; a house with one room of azotea roof, and two of straw. He is not in possession of money, but is entirely free from debt.

Here comes a list of German-Swiss, many of whom were obliged to hire themselves out as labourers on their arrival. But see what German perseverance does:—

John Schar, a German-Swiss, a brickmaker in his own country, a Protestant, 37 years of age, self and wife being his only family, exhausted his funds on reaching here, as did all hereafter mentioned, has now a capital of 100,000 paper dollars; one half lent out at interest, and the other half in the house, or invested in draught cattle.

Felix Schaer, a German Swiss, day labourer in his own country, a Protestant, 28 years of age on his arrival, with four in family, has now a capital of 100,000 paper dollars; two-thirds at interest, and the remainder invested in implements and cattle.

Nicholas Hequi, German-Swiss, a butcher in his country, a Protestant, 38 years old on his arrival, his wife and himself constituting his whole family, is actually in possession of 60,000 paper dollars, part of which is at interest, and the rest invested in an azotea house, labourers' tools, and cattle.

The names of Andrew Schaes, a boy only 19 years old on his arrival, and now possessed of 20,000 paper dollars and a house; of Fernando Schachbaum with 40,000 paper dollars; of Alexander Homber with 30,000; and José Matting 50,000, further prove what can be done by agriculturists in the Argentine Republic.

The Municipality of San Pedro (3 leagues above Baradero) offer 30 chacra lots of 6 cuadras (25 acres each) for immigrants, on the following terms. The lots will be either sold at \$800 per cuadra (30s. per acre), or rented at \$100 or 16s. The tenant or purchaser must pay for survey, &c., the sum of \$150 (24s.) There is also a suitable tract of land, 13,000 varas by 4,300, comprising about 10,000 acres, which may be bought in lots from the owner (a private party) for chacra cultivation.

CHAP. V.

COLONIZATION OF THE CHACO.

THE Gran Chaco comprises an immense territory, for the most part unexplored, lying between Paraguay, La Plata, and Bolivia. The Argentine Republic claims all that part bounded on the North by the Rio Vermejo and on the S.W. by the Salado, comprising a superficies of 250,000 square miles. The soil and climate are equal to those of the most favored countries, and the natural features are, vast plains of luxuriant pasture, thick forests of various useful timbers, and numerous rivers and lagoons: with such facilities for irrigation, it would be easy to raise any quantity of maize, cotton, tobacco, sugar-cane, and rice. In the beginning of the 18th century, thanks to the efforts of the Jesuit missionaries, several flourishing settlements were springing up, whose ruined remains are still seen near San Javier, the Vermejo, and elsewhere; but at present the interior of the Chaco is entirely abandoned to roving Indians and beasts of prey. After the expulsion of the Jesuits (1767) the Indians returned to a savage life, and so late as 1860 the Tobas tribe murdered some Italian Franciscan missionaries sent to convert them. Only five small «reductions» of tame Indians still remain, according to the report of Padre Rossi, prefect of missions; viz.—

	Men.		Women.		Children.		Total.
Santa Rosa,	220	....	258	....	353	....	831
Cayastá,	175	....	186	....	214	....	575
San Javier,	194	....	205	....	204	....	603
San Pedro,	132	....	142	....	281	....	555
San Geronimo,	200	....	182	....	182	....	564

In February 1863, the Argentine Government commissioned Mr. P. C. Bliss to make a journey through the Chaco, and this gentleman reported five Indian nations, distinct in language, but alike in habits and physical appearance: the Mocovis and Abipones frequent the frontiers of Santiago del Estero and Santa Fé, while the Tobas, Ocoles, and Matacos, inhabit the valleys of the Vermejo and Pilcomayo. The three last tribes are said to number 20,000 souls. The Matacos are very industrious, being the best peons on the frontier estancias of Salta, and in the sugar-fields of Salta and Jujuy. During much of the year the Indians live on the fruit of the algarroba and the «yuchan» or palo-boracho; fish also supplies them with food. They have no agriculture or farming implements. Formerly most of the tribes had cattle and sheep, but the animals seem to have been carried off by a pestilence. The Indians suffer great mortality from want of clothing and proper habitations: they are very superstitious, have a great fear of the Gualiche (or evil spirit), and some confused idea of a future life. Their barter trade is very limited: they sometimes bring to the frontier-settlements a few skins of pumas, jaguars, foxes, otters, &c., but they collect wild honey in considerable quantities, as also ostrich feathers and the resin of «palo-santo.» The Matacos and Ocoles could easily be domesticated, if they were furnished with farming implements, seeds, and a few head of cattle.

In May 1864 an expedition was got up by Government, to open up a highway through the Chaco, from Corrientes to Santiago del Estero, the distance being set down at 120 to 140 leagues. Sr. Arce, the Vermejo navigator, took a lively interest in the enterprise, and General Ferré marked out the road on a map. Passing through the «obrages» or wood-cutting establishments in the Chaco, opposite Corrientes city, the route plunged into Indian territory, broken by numerous woods and marshes. Here the want of water and provisions might constitute a greater difficulty than any to be feared from the Indians. Some caciques signed a treaty with the National commissioner, agreeing to provide these necessities at various points along the route. The chief profit to be derived from this new highway was that a great export trade of mules and horses would be opened for Corrientes with the Northern provinces. The report of the officer commanding the expedition was as follows:—

«Bracho Viejo, May 22, 1864.

«Dear Sir,

«By the date of this letter you will perceive that notwithstanding all the sufferings we have experienced in this painful journey across the Chaco, I, as well as my companion, Don Adolfo Reyes, am arrived safely at

our destination: the ways and means would form a very long subject for a letter, and I consequently reserve the details until my return.

«The few provisions that we carried were of an inferior description, and had an unfavourable influence on our health, but like true Germans we have already forgotten our past sufferings and laugh at them in the houses of the engineers, Messrs. William H. Cock and Auguste Lemelle, who have received us as if we had been old friends. We are now lodging in the house of the Salado Navigation Company. Major Martinez is rather ill in the Bracho encampment, with the Indians who accompanied us, whose behaviour has been very bad.

«On the 1st of May an Indian ran away, back to Corrientes, with one of the horses. On the 17th another Indian and a boy ran away, stealing our beef and two of the best horses.

«On the 14th the Cacique Dachilique, with his brother, ran away, stealing some of our horses and the only hatchet we had with us. We lost our way during the night and passed 35 hours without water. The Cacique was familiar with the locality and could have found water, but seeing that the majority of our horses were tired, he separated from us, to take the horses to his «tolderia.» He is the same who, three years back, murdered the Franciscan friar at Matará, and he communicated this fact to the Cacique Leoncito, adding that he accompanied us, merely to learn the state of the roads and cattle, so that he might be better enabled to carry on his depredations against the Province of Santiago. Such are the «trustworthy agents» given to us by General Ferré.

«On the 14th of May, at last, we came to the River Salado, and established ourselves in the 'canton Tostada,' now abandoned. Here we found the fine and well constructed «azotea» houses, erected by orders of our friend Dr. Archer, of which we have taken a plan and sketch to present to you on our return.

«The road that we have travelled over is 175 leagues, and we are now awaiting instructions and horses from the Governor of Santiago. The road can be made transitable for cargo with very little expense.

«I believe that we will start for Santiago on the 26th, passing by Salavina, and from thence I will write further. I do not know yet when and how we shall return to Corrientes, for this depends upon the measures taken by the Government of Santiago.

«FRANCIS PANKONI,

«Lieutenant Commanding.»

An intelligent Indian interpreter and traveller, named Felipe Saravia, who had previously crossed the Chaco, made a journey in January 1865, with complete success, and his diary from Esquina Grande to Corrientes is as follows:—

«January 21st. Left Colony Rivadavia, crossed to the right bank of the Vermejo, following the stream (three leagues) as far as Selicano: good water, course S.E and E.

«22nd. Started at sunrise, and reached Santa Rosa by noon (four leagues): course E. Pushed on (three leagues) to Cañada Angosta, course S.E., roads good.

«23rd. Dined at Poso Escondido (five leagues): good water, road middling; course E. At one part we had to hew a passage of half a league. Advancing three leagues before nightfall we encamped near a large lake which I called Selicano Muerto: road very bad, course S.E.

«24th. Made four leagues to the lake of Paso Yuchan: the route is almost impassable, and we had frequently to cut our way through woods. About midway is Palo Santo, where a port is projected on the Rio Vermejo. Leaving Paso Yuchan we cleared a road through three leagues of thicket, and one and a-half leagues over level ground brought us to Campo Alegre: here there is a good well, course E.

«25th. Reached Poso Verde (five and a-half leagues) by noon. At first the road is good, S.E.; but we had two and a-half leagues E. through dense woods, and then turning again S. E. came on a fine lake. Before night we pushed on (three leagues) to Rancheria, S. E., the route being impassable even to our sixty Indians on foot, until cleared by four men with axes.

«26th. Starting at six a.m. the path was still impenetrable, and with great difficulty we made two leagues to Pescado Flaco, where the steamer Vermejo grounded last year, and sent her cargo on mule-back to Salta. I employed the Chinipis Indians to make a wood-opening here, giving them both money and axes. Course E.: there are two large lakes.

«27th. Using our axes again we made three leagues to Bobadal, E. Two leagues more through the woods to Yuchanes, E., where there is a fine lake.

«28th. At noon to Codillar, which is three and a-half leagues; at first no road, afterwards level camp, and a lake; route E. Two leagues further to Paso Quebrahacho, over level ground, with water, E.

«29th. To Punta Monte two leagues, level camp, S. E.: here there is a well. To Cañada Larga one league, S., with water. To the well called Pelaco three-quarters of a league, E. After this, half a league of thick

woods E., and two and three-quarters of level camp to Tunal, S. In the evening we made three leagues: good road to Laguna Larga, S.E.

«30th. Two leagues E. and S.E. to Paso Tobas, open ground. Three leagues more, same road, to Laguna Verde, S.E.

«31st. To Tres Positos, four leagues, S. E., first half of the way through thickets, afterwards open camp. At three p.m. started for Represa, two and a-half leagues, good road, S.E.

«February 1st. After one and a-half leagues of good road, we had to use our axes for two leagues, before reaching Binalar, S.E. Following this route we reached Totoral, the road being for one and a-half leagues good, and the rest very difficult, S.E.

«2nd. Six leagues of good road, E., to Agua Hedionda, where there is a fine lake, and we passed the night.

«3rd. Five leagues good road, S., and then N.E. to Gateado lake: thence to Paso Zancudo, four and a-half leagues, E., and then S., over level ground: much water.

«4th. Taking S.E. four leagues good road to the lake of Algarrobal. Same route, three leagues and a-half to Palma Acheada and the lagoons.

«5th. To Acheral, four and a-half leagues, clear way, at first S.E. and then E. We passed the night at Potrero, five leagues further, S.E., good road, and water.

«6th. Started at six a.m. and took siesta at Tres Palmitas, six leagues S.E., varying to E. Here there is no water. By sundown reached Perdido, two leagues S.E.

«7th. Reached Montes Grandes by noon: five leagues, good road, S.E., much water, pushed on to Siete Arboles, three and a-half leagues same route.

«8th. Made five and a-half leagues to Arroyo Cortaderas, E., good road, with water. Five leagues more to Bajo Grande.

«9th. Started at seven a.m. and reached the bank of the Paraná, in front of Corrientes, at noon. After siesta crossed the river to the city, which is four leagues from Bajo Grande.»

The journey occupied twenty days, averaging seven leagues per day; of the total hundred and forty leagues, twenty-seven are impassable even to the Indians on foot, who have to cut a passage, as we have seen, with axes. The longest interval without water is six leagues, but it is not clear that the lagoons bearing the names of «Stinking Water» and «Green Well» are fit for drinking purposes.

At the same time the ill-fated brothers Barron (formerly of Waterford, Ireland) got up an expedition to traverse the Chaco from Goya to Santiago, enlisting for the purpose some Indian auxiliaries, but owing to the outbreak

of the Paraguayan war the enterprise was abandoned (The Barrons undertook a second expedition from Mendoza to Chile, in which they were carried off by a savage tribe of Indians, but shortly afterwards effected their escape. Finally they were murdered in San Juan on a third mule expedition, in 1866.) Since 1865 no similar expedition has been made, but the road in question is one of vital necessity, and will probably be the first care of Government on the conclusion of the war. The above named Sr. Arce, at the request of President Derqui, made an attempt to cross the Chaco in 1860: his men (sixty peons) were not prepared for the hardships of the journey, and after three days' floundering through morasses they mutinied; just then a band of Indians fell on them, robbing the convoy, and murdering a friar and six others. Sor. Arce miraculously escaped by floating down the Vermejo on the branch of a tree.

HELVETIA COLONY.

This colony was founded in October, 1864, by Dr. Romang (formerly physician to the Esperanza Colony), who obtained from the Santa Fé Government a grant of four square leagues, on condition of establishing 125 families thereon. It is situate N.N.E. from the Calchines, on the River Cayesta, about a league beyond the Indian village of Cayesta. The first settlers were twenty-four families from Esperanza, and others from Villa Urquiza, who preferred this place on account of its excellent soil and situation, the farming lots being sold very cheap. The average price is 100 Bolivian dollars (£16 sterling) per lot of 85 acres. Dr. Romang's house is in the centre of the spot marked out for the future town and port of the colony: the port is good, and protected by a picturesque and wooded island from the south wind. The river San Javier is about 300 yards wide, and schooners from Buenos Ayres come up to the colony. The road hence to Calchines is mostly through swamps and thickets, with open camps at intervals: the pasture is very poor, unless near the colony, where there is a fine black vegetable earth. Mr. Perkins writes of the locality as follows:—

“A little over a year ago I travelled all over that section of the country, and found it, without exaggeration, the finest place for farming and cattle-rearing purposes I have seen in this country. The ground or soil is black and sandy, and the grass hard; but not near so hard as south of the river Salado. I think for sheep it would not do so well in the beginning; but I fancy that ‘gramilla’ would make its appearance sooner than near Esperanza, San Jeronimo, San Carlos, &c.

«Romang's grant is situated on the immediate banks of the navigable branch of the Río Paraná, called by the country folks 'El arroyo del pueblo viejo:' by 'pueblo viejo' they understand an Indian village, Cayesta, at a distance of about twenty-five leagues from the city of Santa Fé. There I have seen the ruins of a church and a number of houses—all seemed to have been built of tapia or adobe: remains of bricks and baldosas could be seen in various parts. The former ground of the church is now used by some of the baptized Indians as a burying-ground: they put pieces of wood and branches of trees on the tombs. Most of them have chacras (fenced in) and grow corn, water melons, pumpkins, and mani.

«The women are industrious: they spin, dye, weave, sew and stitch tolerably well; they rear cattle, have first-rate milch cows, but make neither butter nor cheese, only using milk as a beverage. Their clothing is of the most primitive nature. The land would be capital for growing cotton and tobacco. The milch cows would be very safe and do first-rate on the fine island opposite the shore.

«Dr. Romang has the land divided into lots of five and twenty cuadras, each 150 yards square, and he sells such lots in the immediate neighborhood of the river for 100 Bolivian dollars, a little further off for sixty, and those lots situated two miles from the river for fifty.

«I forgot to mention that within a league of said land there are beautiful forests of a great variety of trees. The forty families who accompany Dr. Romang are all known to me; they are old settlers of Esperanza, and have the routine of the exportation of timber, &c., which is the principal reason, I think, of their removing farther north. They all handle the rifle well, and are not afraid of the Indians.»

The situation is most picturesque, on the banks of the San Javier, which has fringes of fine timber, and some fertile islands. The colony counts 40 families, which comprise 167 individuals, and 100 more families are ready to come out from Switzerland as soon as the war is over. Some of the lands are good, others need drainage, but have excellent timber. The chief products are maize, wheat, and potatoes. Raising pigs promises to be a lucrative business, as the animals are fattened on maize, and the hams sell at 18*l.* per *℥*. Cayasta is an Indian village, comprising thirty huts, a house belonging to a Spanish wood-cutter, and the residence of the cacique, Tomas Valdez. It stands on a bluff near the San Javier, with a zone of open camps; but the horizon is bounded on all sides with a dark fringe of wood. All these lands, as far as Saladillo Dulce, are very suitable for colonists, with easy communication with the river Paraná. The Indians of Cayasta are indolent, thievish, and fond of hunting and fishing: the men

are robust, and the women have regular features. Their ranchos are clean and commodious, built of long reeds. They dress decently, even the children wearing shirts. Maize grows well, but is little cultivated.

The colonists of Helvetia lost no time in bringing the land under cultivation: by report dated January, 1866, they had sown as follows:—

43 fanegas wheat,	10 fanegas beans,
126 do., maize,	10 do., other vegetables.
15,000 plants tobacco,	1,000 orange trees,
10,000 do., cotton,	10,500 fruit trees,

Their stock comprised—

760 cows,	80 pigs,
90 horses,	400 sheep.

The Provincial Government has solicited of the National authorities that all subsidized steamers shall be ordered to stop opposite the colony, in the Boca del Riacho Hernandaria. Thus, the colony will come into direct communication with Rosario and Buenos Ayres.

SAN JAVIER CONCESSIONS.

In April, 1865, Messrs. Wilken & Vernet obtained from the Santa Fé Government a concession of 100 square leagues (650,000 acres) on the river San Javier, for the establishment of 250 families from Germany, to whom they would give 50,000 sheep, 4,000 cows, besides horses, &c. The colony was to be established within three years, and the colonists to be exempt from taxes for five years, besides exporting their produce duty free for the same term. The site was well chosen, about thirty-five leagues north of Santa Fé city, and nearly opposite La Paz in Entre Rios. Mr. Vernet's diary of his journey to San Javier is interesting—

«I started from Santa Fé on the 10th of August, at 10 a.m., accompanied by my peon and a merchant of the village of Las Calchinas.

«At noon we arrived at the little village of San José del Rincon, situated about three leagues E.N.E. from Santa Fé. This village has about 1,000 inhabitants, a fine little church, and 10 or 12 stores, or «casas de negocio.» The natives occupy themselves with growing wheat, Indian corn, water melons, and pumpkins (these latter are of colossal dimensions; I was told they harvested last year some weighing about 100lb each), oranges and peaches for home consumption: all the other produce is exported to Buenos Ayres. San José has a fine port on the river Colastine, and I saw two large schooners loading wheat and Indian corn.

«The road from Santa Fé to San José is rather bad and heavy on account of the «bañados» which must be passed, and is also intercepted by the mouth of the Laguna Grande, which must be crossed in a canoe and the horses swimming.

«From San José leads a road to the village Santa Rosa, or Las Calchinas, situated on the banks of the river Cayesta, which is a prolongation of the Colastiné; this road is also very tiresome for horses, passing through long tracts of «bañados,» and through heavy sands, and is likewise intercepted by a branch of the Paraná, which must be crossed in a canoe. This branch or channel leads a huge quantity of Paraná water into the Laguna Grande, on its north-eastern boundaries. The distance from one village to the other is seven leagues.

«The productions of Las Calchinas are—wheat and Indian corn, which are exported to Buenos Ayres. The port is very good, and I saw two vessels and various ‘chalanes’ loading. There are about 600 inhabitants in this village, and a fine two-steepled church, of good materials, recently constructed by order of the National Government: there are three or four merchants, the principal one my fellow-traveller, Don Francisco Cardona.

«Las Calchinas was originally a settlement of Indians; but their number is now very limited.

«On the 11th, at 1 p.m., I left the Calchinas, in company with my peon and the ‘corregidor,’ José Rojas. At dusk we arrived at the new colony, Helvetia. I spent the night at the house of Dr. Romang.

«On the 12th of August, at 7 a.m., we started for San Javier, after having taken the indispensable maté and purchased some provisions for the journey. After a leisure gallop we entered a forest, which has two or three leagues depth on the river Cayasta, and extends, landwards, for several leagues. The rest of the road is open camp, scattered with groups of trees. In some parts the ground is low and swampy, in others, a little high and dry. In some parts the river San Javier touches the *terra firma*, in others it retires, thus forming small islands and ‘bañados.’

«The distance from the colony of Helvetia to San Javier is computed by some at fifteen, and by others at eighteen leagues. Half-way there is a beautiful spot on the banks of the river; it is called El Paso del Aguara, and belongs to Mr. Genaro Elias, as also another place a little further to the north, called La Estancia Grande. A little to the south, at Las Algarrobas, is the property of Don Daniel Gowland. Both of these gentlemen are resident in Buenos Ayres.

«At half-past four p.m. we arrived at the village of San Javier.»

Messrs. Wilken & Vernet endeavored to form a company in England, but failed; the concession is now void.

In July 1866, public attention was notably directed to this part of the Gran Chaco as a field for emigration. A French colony was projected at Pajaro Blanco, a Dutch colony near Wilken's grant, a Californian colony on the San Javier, a Basque colony hard by, and another at San Antonio on the Rio Salado. Governor Oroño passed a bill through the Chambers giving estancia lots of 4,000 acres each at a nominal price, the law being as follows:—

Art. 1. The lands bordering on the river Paraná between the concessions of Mr. Charles Vernet and Sr. Navarro, extending back westward to the Saladillo Grande, are hereby given in perpetuity for the use and benefit of immigrant families.

Art. 2. The Government will draw up a map of the territory, marking sites for towns, each of which shall have an area of four leagues square for streets, buildings and a general grazing-common.

Art. 3. Each township shall be divided into building-lots of 50 yards frontage by the same depth, and chacras of 20 cuadras each (80 acres): the building lots to be given gratis, as also the chacras at the rate of four cuadras for each person.

Art. 4. The rest of the territory shall be distributed as estancias of 5,000 yards frontage by the same depth (4,000 acres), or 25,000,000 square yards, to be sold on a year's credit to natives or foreigners who settle thereon, but not more than two estancias can be sold to the same individual.

Art. 5. The price of these lands shall be set down on the map, according to their distance from the river, the nature of their pastures, water-supply, wood, &c. as fixed by Government tariff which shall never be under \$300 per square league, nor over \$400.

Art. 6. All sales, grants, or concessions will require the indispensable condition of settling on the ground, according to the existing law.

Art. 7. The proceeds of lands sold as in Art. 4 shall be devoted to paying the passage of foreign emigrant families from Buenos Ayres to their intended place of settlement in the territory above described.

Art. 8. The expenses of passage for said families shall be considered as a loan, for which the head of the family must be responsible, and it shall be as a mortgage on the lands ceded or sold to the family.

Art. 9. All moneys advanced in this manner to each family for cost of passage shall be refunded by the colonists, beginning the 2nd year after settling, in a fifth part each year, without any charge for interest.

Art. 10. The moneys refunded as above by the colonists shall form an

«Immigration Fund,» the annual interest of which shall be exclusively devoted to the education of the colonists' children, public works, and other purposes tending to encourage immigration.

Art. 11. The settlers shall be exempt from all Provincial tax or impost during five years after their establishment.

Art. 12. Native families of this or any other Argentine Province, who may wish to settle in the Colonies or in their neighbourhood, shall enjoy the same privileges as are hereby conceded to foreign settlers.

Art. 13. The Government will publish at expense of the State a pamphlet comprising the present law, with a description and map of the territory herein devoted to immigration purposes.

Art. 14. The Government is obliged to report each year to the Legislature on the results of the present law, with a balance-sheet of receipts and expenditure.

The only colonists who availed themselves of this advantageous offer of lands were the settlers from California, who have since established a flourishing colony. Meantime the Secretary of the Emigration Committee at Rosario published a notice as follows :—

«Mr. Oroño has authorised me to state that the conveyance of all persons desirous of settling in the Chaco will be furnished gratis, and orders will be transmitted to the agents of Mr. Cabal's steamer, the *Provedor*, to give free passages to such persons from Buenos Ayres to Santa Fé, from which point the Government will furnish transportation by land up the coast. At Pajaro Blanco, the Government has a reserve of sixteen leagues to be distributed gratis, in farms of eighty-five acres, to settlers. All these I have explored, and I give my word that no finer exist in the Republic. The vegetable soil is from two to four feet in depth, and there is plenty of wood; while the low lands in front, through which the San Javier runs, offer the most admirable pasture lands for cattle and the rearing of hogs. Twelve leagues above the flourishing colony of Esperanza, on the Salado River, is the site of the projected colony of San Antonio, where settlers can get grants gratis of 2,500, 1,500, 1,000 and 500 acres, according to their priority of arrival. This place is as yet outside the frontier, and cannot be settled on except by a considerable number of people, say a hundred to a hundred and fifty, for protection against the Indians. The Chaco will give the new colonists all the meat they want. There is a great abundance of deer, large and small, carpinchos, armadillos, ducks, geese, partridges, moor fowl, fish, &c., besides a sprinkling of tigers, wolves, foxes, wild hogs, and vast quantities of the American ostrich.»

THE CALIFORNIAN COLONY.

In the last week of May, 1866, a number of Californian farmers who had come to settle in the Argentine Republic, accompanied Mr. Perkins of Rosario in an exploring expedition to that part of the Gran Chaco lying between El Rey and San Javier, on the banks of the Paraná: the river Rey is in 29 lat., S. The expedition was composed of the following persons and material:—Messrs. William Perkins, leader; J. Aguirre, surveyor; Alexander McLean, James B. Locket, William J. Moore, Zina Port, Francis Binitz, Josiah Reeves, John Smith, Harlow, William H. Moore, Moses J. Moore, Charles W. Burton, Albert Vidler, M. J. English, Charles Stewart, Charles Hildreth, Edward Washburn, John Penington; four peons belonging to the Surveying Department, one 'capataz' and two men for the carts, of which there were two, one ox-cart, and another drawn by horses. In San Javier a number of Indians was added to the party.

They were six weeks exploring the Chaco up and down, and the land proved equal to their best anticipations, except near the coast-line of the Paraná, where the swamps extended from two to six leagues inland. They crossed the River Rey, venturing into the territory of the warlike Tobas, and here they found the land even to surpass what they had seen south of El Rey. On their return to Santa Fé they resolved to establish their first settlement a league northward of San Javier, in a fine tract of land which they therefore bought of the Government. They also applied for 40 leagues of territory, about 13 leagues further north, and 45 leagues from Santa Fé city, intending to have this in readiness when their friends from California should arrive in large numbers. The total purchase-money amounted to 13,300 silver dollars, equal to two and a-half pence per acre. Some of the settlers were men of large means, one having as much as £10,000 sterling.

In the beginning of August they started for their new home in the hunting-grounds of the Mocovies, the caravan comprising 30 men, women, and children, with six loaded waggons, horses, oxen, and baggage: the agricultural implements, machines, and provisions, were sent up by water, in two schooners. Three months later, Mr. Hildreth, one of the colonists, writes as follows:—

«We have finally settled, say half comfortable, as far as houses and their appurtenances go, just one league from the fort of San Javier. The colony at present consists of thirty souls, men, women, and children. The land under cultivation, and which was the labor of six men for six weeks, is one hundred and fifty acres, planted with Indian corn and every variety of

vegetables—all of which are doing splendidly for newly broken ground. The amount of stock, cattle and horses, now on hand, is about 125 head, and good milk and fine butter are as plentiful here as *máte* and *caña* below. Our water facilities are as fine as any I have seen in the Confederacy—having a branch of the San Javier in front, and the Saladillo Dulce at the back. The captain commandant at the fort assures us that a ‘seca’ is never known here, and certainly his words have been verified since our arrival, for it has rained incessantly. All the colonists are much pleased with the land and its locality. If any of your friends are desirous of visiting us, advise them to bring rifles and shot-guns, as game is very plentiful, and two or three weeks can be delightfully passed hereabouts, hunting. Day before yesterday I met three or four of the tame Indians, with thirty-seven large red-deer skins, one tiger, and several fox skins, and which they assured me had been killed near here, and were the work of three days only. Ostriches and their eggs are plentiful, and the latter serve as an excellent substitute for ‘hen fruit.’ Last Sunday morning at daylight, two of us started for a hunt, and less than two miles from the house we brought down a fine deer, and saw five others; but the little songsters called ‘mosquitos’ and the heat of the morning induced us to give up the chase, returning home, after two hours absence, with our venison, which was the fattest I have seen in this country. The Indians, of whom we had such bad accounts before our expedition to the Rey, have not yet made their appearance; but we have always ready at hand, loaded and capped, a good supply of rifles, guns, muskets, and revolvers, and as several of our colonists have been old North American Indian hunters, the savages may expect a warm reception if they come with evil intentions. As yet not a single animal has been lost or stolen; and they are allowed to roam at will all day, being seldom seen from the time they leave the corral in the morning until they return at night. Too much praise cannot be given to the captain commandant of the fort at San Javier, for he has extended to us all the civilities possible to make us comfortable and happy.»

A gentleman who visited the colony only six weeks after its establishment describes it as follows:—

«After some four leagues riding, we arrived at the ford of a large navigable river which empties itself into the Paraná opposite Ernandaria; upon its banks nothing can exceed the richness of its pastures. Then the old works of the Jesuits open upon us, and we enter the fort or town of San Javier, full of the largest orange trees I ever beheld, and of Indian huts; the old chapel, and walls of extraordinary bricks, made by the Jesuits, rivet our attention. The new house and church, the work of our host the

Cura, are the largest edifices in the town, and, although yet in winter, I never beheld vegetation more luxuriant.

«The Cura, who undoubtedly rules supreme in San Javier, has built a fine chapel; it is long, broad, sufficiently high, with an iron roof, and most commodious; it has two bells, a sacristy, and the house and garden of the Cura joins it; it is the work of his own hands, save the occasional help he could get from the Indians. Early on Sunday morning we attended his chapel—surprised at the large congregation present. After breakfast we proceeded to the Californian Colony—about a league north of San Javier; how great the contrast appeared between the Indian town and the Christian settlement, where every implement of agriculture, every American invention to aid the colonists, ovens of all classes, culinary and household furniture, besides large tracts of land ploughed to perfection, lay before us! We alighted at Mr. McLean's encampment, who was most communicative to us; he told us he had travelled for the last thirteen months—since his arrival overland from California—through Buenos Ayres and the other provinces in search of tillage-land, and that only in the Chaco could he find it to satisfaction. We proceeded with him to the other branch of the colony—about a mile distant—where we were agreeably surprised at meeting several ladies, besides Mr. and Mrs. Moore with a grown-up family of eight in number; one of his sons had just shot a red deer and a number of ducks, but their staple commodity is flour, of which they have a large supply, and their provisions bread, beans, rice, coffee, tea, and sugar, for, save the horses, working oxen, and an odd milch cow, they have no other animals.

«Houses are going up: the colony, which consists of men of every trade, are most enthusiastic, determined to hold their position, and have solicited Government for a further grant of twenty leagues. The rifles of the colony, in quantity and quality, are beyond my description. We met the Comandante of San Javier, Don Antonio Alsogaray, who has large fields of wheat, maize, and alfalfa: his services to the colony are innumerable. We were also waited on by Custodio, the cacique, who expressed his pleasure at our arrival, regretted that most of his Indians were on a hunting expedition, that if we came to trade, until their return we should find almost nothing, as every skin had been purchased by the three traders or store-keepers of the town—Don Benjamin Escudero, an Entre Riano; Don Beltran Duran, a Frenchman; and Don Lucas Caballo, a Spaniard, the Tattersal of San Javier.»

Fray Emitivio, the cura, is an Italian, about 35 years of age, very zealous in his calling and disinterested.

A writer in the *Tiempo* of Santa Fé says—«No less than one hundred years ago, under the gentle sway of the Jesuits, these very plains were waving with maize, corn, and cotton, flanked by a large quinta, well stocked with fruit trees and vegetables; besides troops of carts, the Jesuits had a fleet of small river craft to convey their produce to this market, and these vessels were made in their own dockyard and by their own shipwrights and blacksmiths. In 1767 the mission had 23,000 head of horned cattle, 3,850 sheep, 3,000 horses and mares, and 380 mules.»

The progress of the colony could not better be described than in the annexed letters, dated January, 1867:—

«Since we have been here we are doing well; our crops are excellent, all except our early corn, that was sown in a hurry and the land only ploughed once. The regular crop, put in with greater care, is doing very well. I have a fine garden, from which I have just picked a squash from Californian seed that measures sixty-two inches in circumference, and I have as fine water-melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other garden stuff as you would like to see. I have thirty head of cattle—cows and oxen. We have planted 150 acres of corn, and have done some ploughing for next season, which is not bad, considering we had such a late start. The Indians have not troubled us at all, in fact we have not seen one yet. The tame Indians of San Javier have not meddled with us either; if they were to do so we would take their whole town. The high water did not become visible to us. It would require a further rise of seven feet to overflow the bottom lands. There is excellent feed for the cattle all over these lands. The officers from the Santa Fé Government gave us a visit; they came up to establish a new line of forts. They were very well pleased with our crop. What we want here are our own country seeds, and Americans to put them in the ground. I have six rows of cotton growing, and it is as promising as any I ever saw in my life in the Southern States. I planted the seeds at different epochs, so as to ascertain the best date for planting. In a few days it will be in full bloom.—A. McLEAN.»

Mr. Moore, writes:—«Myself and two sons have planted forty acres of corn, and about ten in garden stuff, and everything looks magnificent. My water-melons are as fine as any I ever saw, and my pumpkins, only half grown, weigh from 25 to 30 lbs. The corn, although receiving no cultivation, is very fine. Everything is looking so thrifty, that I am thoroughly convinced that I can raise as good crops here as in any part of the world. Our seeds have run out, but as soon as I can get a supply from home all will be well.»

Another letter, a year later (January 1868), continues to report everything most favorably—

«The California Colony has proved a perfect success so far. Everything that has been planted has thriven well, equal to the best parts of California. The wheat crop has been harvested, and is splendid. The corn is in roasting ear, and is good for any country. Irish potatoes, garden stuff of all kinds, cabbages particularly, melons, pumpkins, &c., I consider very superior. The young orchards are doing finely. The only thing which has failed has been the sweet potatoes. There is a kind of bug (called in North America the lady bug), which destroys the vines. Everything that has been planted has done well. The live stock is equally successful. Cattle, horses, and hogs have done, and are doing well. The colony has never been disturbed by the Indians, and every family which arrives lessens the probability of its being so. The colonists have not lost an animal by Indians or tigers. They have lost a great deal of wheat by the rainy weather, as they have no threshing machine, and had to tramp it out with horses. Next season they will be provided with the best Yankee machinery. If they had had the most ordinary reapers, and threshed, they would not have lost a grain this year. They are preparing to sow a much larger crop this fall. The land in this section is level, but 30 feet above the low lands or 'bottom' of the Paraná. The soil is a black loam about three feet deep, and resting on yellow clay. The grass and herbage grow with great luxuriance at all seasons. The grass is of the same quality as the 'merquite' grass of Texas, and I consider it equal in all respects to that. The 'paja,' or tall jungle grass, grows only on the Paraná bottom or low land, which is at this point 18 miles wide, and intersected with numerous 'lagoons' and lakes. The cattle range in it to a short distance.' As for land, there is certainly plenty of it. From this colony northward there is not a house for twelve hundred miles, and the vacant public domain stretches away for hundreds of leagues north and west. There is everywhere an abundance of good fresh water, and plenty of wood, both for fencing and firewood. We make it answer for building our cabins; but it is short and crooked for that purpose. For picket fencing and firewood it has no superior, and there is plenty of it and well distributed. No clearing is required, as the country is prairie, with skirts or ranges of timber extending through it. The timber improves in quality as far up the country as I have been, which is about fifty miles. The climate is healthy: there has been no sickness among the settlers. We have had more rain than we needed this summer. As to the price of land, I suppose the best land here can be bought for \$50 s. per acre, and from that down to nothing, and the seed

thrown in. For if any new comer should be too poor to buy, he would have land given him to his satisfaction. What is most wanted now is settlers, American or English, equipped for settling in the woods, and armed to defend themselves, as the colony looks to itself for protection. We have lately had three English families from Buenos Ayres, and two single men from California. If you see any American, English, Scotch, or Irish families, or single men who expect to engage in agriculture, I have no hesitation in saying that this is the best part of the Argentine Republic. For live stock the country is as good as could be desired, but for the present no large number of horses or cattle would be advisable. I say for the present, but the colonists expect to bring large droves next spring. The colony is much in need of a blacksmith's shop. A good smith, equipped for farm work, is a desideratum, particularly an American, or one who has worked in North America. Persons moving up to the colony at present, should come to the town of La Paz, in Entre Rios, which is on the Paraná River, and there charter a boat to San Javier. The charter of a boat from La Paz to this place, San Javier, would be about £5 sterling. The passage to La Paz from Buenos Ayres is \$18 s. I omitted to mention that the 'mosquitos' are bad at present, though there were none this summer until lately. I deem it superfluous to say that we have game in abundance, and fish in fabulous quantities. Cotton grows well, and also hemp and tobacco. Please forward any letters which may arrive for me to the same address: Colonia California, San Javier, Santa Fé.»

Mr. Perkins of Rosario, in April 1868, writes as follows:—"One of the Americans from the Californian Colony is down here. He has informed the Secretary of the Immigration Commission that the crops have been excellent, and the people are happy and contented. The Welshmen and their families, from Chupat, under Mr. Davies, are settled now amongst the Americans, and have brought up the number of the colony to about forty individuals. The new French Colony, two leagues this side of San Javier, has now fifteen families.»

At the close of 1868 we have the following accounts:—"The news from the North American Colony is cheering. Their wheat crops are splendid, and the *Tiempo* of Santa Fé says that relatively this colony will give double the products that any of the others will, on account of the intelligence and industry of the colonists. A sample of their wheat sent down to Santa Fé was pronounced the first in the province. The colonists have received several additions to their number from California. It seems the Government considers the contract with Messrs. Wilcken and Vernet cancelled, as part of this concession has been given to the Welshmen, another part

sold to Mr. Grognet, and another to Mr. Laprade, both gentlemen of Rosario. A quantity of the lands of El Rey has also been solicited by purchasers.»

RIVADAVIA COLONY.

This colony is situate on the N.E. bank of the Rio Vermejo, about four leagues below Esquina Grande, in the Province of Salta, up to which point there are no impediments to navigation. It is bounded on the north by the grant belonging to the missionary fathers, on the south and east by the Arroyo Tenco, and on the west by the Rio Vermejo. It covers a superficies of 200 square leagues (1,300,000 acres), extending six leagues in breadth from N.W. to S.E., and forty in length. The soil is mostly alluvial, being periodically inundated by the Vermejo. The colony was established in December 1862, and in January 1864, it counted 54 families, with an aggregate of 550 souls. Since then, numerous «suertes» have been allotted to new settlers, and the colony is now much larger. Each family receives for ever a donation of a «suerte» of estancia, 2,500 yards front, by the same depth (about 1,200 acres), between the rivers Vermejo and Tenco, or double that area if the lands have not frontage on the above rivers; also a building lot, 15 yards by 60, on the site of the proposed town; and a chacra of four acres for cultivation. The chief industry of the colony is in horned cattle, the stock amounting to 20,000 head. The soil is fertile, and large plantations have been made of cotton and tobacco; but at present the difficulty of transport seems insuperable. President Mitre's Government was authorized by Congress to expend all necessary sums for the construction of a road from Corrientes to Esquina Grande: the project has been allowed to fall into complete oblivion; but the road, when made, will pass through the colony and meet the high road of the northern provinces somewhere on the frontier of Salta and Tucuman. Mr. Bliss speaks of his visit to the colony in July 1863, as follows:—

«The long delay of our expedition had given rise to serious fears for our safety, and our arrival at the colony of Rivadavia was hailed with the greatest demonstrations of joy. When the expedition left Buenos Ayres, its supposed destination was the port of Esquina Grande, four leagues above the colony of Rivadavia. The event proved that no one on board had any idea of the geographical and other changes which have taken place in that region within three or four years. Esquina Grande, so noted in all previous itineraries of voyages and explorations, does not now contain a single building of any description, and, in fact, does not now exist as a port. The river has, as in many other cases, changed its course, has dug a canal across

the peninsula, and has thus left the former Esquina Grande some distance inland! The port thus abandoned has, however, been more than replaced by the establishment, during the year 1862, of the new colony of Rivadavia. This colony is situated upon the northern bank of the Vermejo, four leagues below Esquina Grande, and has a grant from the Provincial Government of Salta of sixteen leagues of land upon the river and six leagues back. The colonists were mostly Bolivians of the poorer class, from the provinces of Tarija and Santa Cruz de la Sierra. This large grant of land was looked upon with a jealous eye by the estancieros of the frontier, who coveted that fine extent of territory for themselves. The Indians of the neighborhood were mostly employed as peons, either by the colonists or by the 'fronteristas,' and some of the latter stooped to the meanness and wickedness of prejudicing the Indians against the colonists, hoping thus to frighten them from their enterprise. With the arrival of our steamer the safety of the colony was thought to be secured, especially as three cannon from the old fort of San Fernando were brought to the colony at the same time.»

Mr. Bliss was five weeks making the overland journey from the colony to Buenos Ayres, *via* Rosario.

The latest official report of the colony is only to January 1864. When the navigation of the Rio Vermejo becomes a fact, the colony will spring into great importance.

CHAP. VI.

COLONIZATION OF PATAGONIA.

PATAGONIA may be said to include all that vast territory lying between the Rio Negro (40 deg. S. Lat.) and the Straits of Magellan, and estimated to contain an area of 350,000 square miles. The climate is similar to that of England, and the soil fertile: hence the country is well suited for immigration, and various efforts have been made, within the last six years, for this purpose.

In June 1863 the Government of Buenos Ayres made the following grant to Mr. Louis Bamberger :—

1. M. Louis Bamberger engages to bring out a German Colony, whose total number shall be 10,000 families.

2. The Government of Buenos Ayres grants a free gift of public land in the following proportion: for every 100 families one square league, besides an equal quantity for the benefit of the concessionaire or joint stock company.

3. The Government will provide each family with farming implements, seeds, two milch cows, six heifers, a yoke of oxen, and twelve sheep.

4. The Government will support all the immigrants during six months after their arrival.

The concession never came to anything, Mr. Bamberger failing to get up a joint-stock company.

In the following month (July 1863) the Argentine Government signed a concession for the establishment of a Welsh Colony at the Chupat, which was carried out two years later.

In August 1863 a Frenchman, Dr. Brougues, who had been connected with the French Colony in Corrientes, formed a project to convert the Indians into colonists, giving them land, seeds, &c., and the Cacique Baigorria promised him every co-operation. He also proposed introducing European settlers, to be scattered along the rivers Negro and Colorado. The scheme died in embryo.

In 1863, Messrs. Galvan, Aguirre, and Murga received a most advantageous concession from the Government of Buenos Ayres, viz.:—«Messrs. Galvan receive for each family a gift of 160 acres land, a bonus of \$12 s., and the loan of \$160 or £32 sterling, to pay the necessary expenses. Messrs. Aguirre and Murga receive 1,600 acres for each family, in fee, but without any subvention in money. The concessionaires propose to pay the passage of the immigrants, providing each family, on arrival, with 300 sheep, six milch cows, one bull, four horses, and a large piece of land.»

As an immigration scheme it has never been carried out, but numbers of Englishmen have since settled on the lands of Aguirre and Murga, some purchasing the land from them, others going into partnership with them in the care of sheep,

In June 1864 General Paunero submitted an excellent project for a fixed line of frontier on the Rio Colorado, which, but for the Paraguayan war, bade fair to be accepted by Government.

The Rio Colorado rises in that part of the Andes contiguous to Mendoza, almost in direct line from Buenos Ayres, in 35 S. Lat., and 69 W. Long. pursuing a winding course S. E. until it debouches into the Atlantic, a few miles below our settlement of Bahia Blanca, about 40 S. Lat. Paunero estimated its length at 197 leagues, say 600 miles, and proposed to erect a line of forts with small military picquets at certain distances, along its north bank. He required only 5000 men for so splendid an undertaking, instead of 13,000 troops of the Line and National Guards at present occupied in the straggling frontier service of these provinces.

The advantages to be gained by this scheme were thus summed up:—
1st. An effective and uniform cordon of frontier posts. 2nd. The creation of an impassable barrier, which would prevent communication between the Indians of the Chaco and those of Patagonia. 3rd. The recovery of 20,000 square leagues (a territory three times as large as England) of the finest pasture lands. 4th. A saving of 60 per cent. in the expense of the present frontier forces. 5th. The total relief of civilians from military

service. 6th. The development of a new commercial artery by the navigation of the Rio Colorado. 7th. A safeguard for our sheepfarmers against the perils of drought, these men being formerly afraid to move their flocks towards the Indian territory. Moreover the lands adjacent to the Colorado might be made to produce wheat for the whole Republic, the freight to Bahia Blanca being easy, and therefore cheap.

In September 1864 a German company with a proposed capital of three millions sterling sought a concession for the colonization of 30,000 square miles of territory between the rivers Colorado and Negro.

The Company proposed to Government to introduce 20,000 European agricultural families within five years, on condition of a cavalry force of 2,000 men, under Colonel Machado, being placed for that period to defend the territory from the Indians. Each family was to receive free passage, a rancho, food for the first year, seeds and implements, one horse, two oxen, two cows, and 100 sheep. The emigrant would be required, in return, to sign bills for £200, payable in 40 yearly instalments. Each family was to receive 12 cuadras (50 acres) of land for tillage, and have the pasture lands of the colony in common with the rest.

This enterprise shared the fate of those just mentioned.

The Republic of Chile having always claimed a great portion of Patagonia, that Government commissioned Mr. Cox to explore the whole course of the Rio Negro, as that gentleman held the conviction that fluvial communication existed between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

In 1859, making Port Montt (a German colony on the Pacific in S. Lat. 41.30) his starting point and base of operations, in company with a few determined companions, he passed the neck of the Cordillera at Mount Osorno, and reached the western shore of Lake Nahuel-huapi. But he had not calculated all the difficulties of the enterprise, and was obliged to desist and return to Valparaiso. The Government was pleased with his report, and the explorer only waited a favorable chance to carry out his design.

On the 16th of December 1862, a complete expedition fully equipped by Government, and consisting of 18 persons under his command, again started from Port Montt, and reaching Lake Nahuel-huapi on New-year's day 1863, undertook to cross the lake in a boat left there by Mr. Cox on his former journey. A steep hill on the eastern shore now barred their progress, but they resolutely cut their way through a virgin forest, climbed the perilous glaciers, and Mr. Cox was the first who arrived at the summit, and saw, to his infinite joy, the broad stream of the Rio Negro winding its course eastward, till lost in the brown-colored Pampas of Patagonia.

Having launched his boat in the Rio Negro, he determined to push downwards as far as the Argentine settlement of Carmen or Patagones, at the mouth, on the Atlantic. Fearing a shortness of provisions, he ordered the half of his party to return to Port Montt, and with the rest commenced to descend the river, which he found navigable, with about 10 or 12 feet of water. After some slight mishaps, in coming foul of the hidden obstacles, he had the misfortune to capsize the boat, and his men narrowly escaped drowning: he owed his own safety to a life-belt, the water being here fourteen feet deep. The loss of all his charts and instruments was even less than that of the provisions, on which depended the lives of all the party. Luckily he fell in with a tribe of Pehuelches Indians, who at first determined to kill all the intruders, but the interpreter explaining that Mr. Cox was very rich, it was at length agreed that he should pay a large ransom, leaving four of his men as hostages, while he proceeded to Port Montt. He accordingly returned with the ransom, but instead of accompanying his men back to Chile, remained a voluntary companion of the Pehuelches, whose costume he even adopted, with the hope of accompanying them at the usual time of year in their journey to Carmen, to sell skins and ostrich feathers. Some neighboring tribes, hearing of the Christian who went hunting guanacos and ostriches with the Pehuelches, threatened to make a «malon» with fire and lance if he were permitted to remain in Indian territory, and he saw himself forced to return to Chile, where an account of his explorations has since been published at the cost of Government. By a fortunate coincidence Mr. Cox was wrecked at the very same rapids mentioned by the Spanish pilot Villarin, who reached this point in a small vessel which ascended the Rio Negro from the Atlantic. Hence Mr. Cox considers his expedition realized, and declares the water-course navigable the whole way (excepting about a mile) from one ocean to the other. He speaks highly of M. Lenglier, a Frenchman who joined him in all his perilous adventures. He states that as the Argentines hold the line of the Rio Negro from Patagones to the island of Choel-echoel, it would be easy for Chile to occupy the remainder as far as Lake Nahuelhuapi, and by this means a splendid country would be thrown open for immigration, and a navigable highway made available for commerce across the continent.

It would seem, however, that more than thirty years previously the late Captain Smyley had gone the same route: in a letter dated 10th February, 1865, he stated—

«In the years 1828 and 1829 I made a tour of the coast of Chile, from Copiapó to San Carlos (in the island of Chiloe), and from there crossed the

Cordillera of the Andes with the Araucanian Indians. After that, I travelled with the Pampas, Chuhuelches, and Magellan Indians, from the head waters of the Rio Negro as far as the Straits of Magellan, and thence back, over a more southern route, laying down the latitudes and longitudes of the principal places on both routes. I have several times since then travelled with the Indians on most parts of the coast of Patagonia. And I still claim to be the first white man who ever took this route; and I firmly believe, from what the Indians tell me, that no one has ever accomplished it since. I beg leave to differ with Mr. Cox, or any others who find a carriage road across the Andes, or judge the whole course of the Rio Negro navigable as far as the South Atlantic. At the same time I must acknowledge the route to be easy, and, for most of the way, through a fine country. Nor do I think the day far distant when this territory will prove the richest part of South America, both in mineral products and for agricultural purposes.»

In the year 1864, Mr. Orestes Tornero, a native of Valparaiso, solicited from the Chilian Legislature a concession for all the territory lying between deg. 49, S. lat., and the Straits of Magellan, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This slice of land is 300 miles long (from Cape Virgin in the Atlantic to Cape Desirée in the Pacific), by 250 wide, which would give a superficial extent of 75,000 square miles, almost equal to the whole island of Great Britain. The concessionaire bound himself—1st. To establish colonies on the territory ceded, the minimum number of settlers at the end of ten years to amount to 10,000 persons; and, 2nd. To establish two, four, or more steam tugs. The colonists were to be free of taxes for fifty years.

Another project for colonization and steam tugs was got up by Don Anjel Palazuelos; but it is not clear if either of these enterprises will ever be realised. At present, the Chilian Government is paying much attention to the navigation of Magellan's Straits, having sent a war steamer to accompany H.B.M.'s ship Nassau in the surveys and soundings ordered by the British Admiralty.

In August 1865, a grand project was got up by Don Juan Cruz Ocampo and M. Brie de Laustan (the latter gentleman had much colonial experience in Algiers); their prospectus was as follows:—

«The petitioners propose to form a Joint-stock Argentine Credit Mobilier and Patagonia Colonization Company, within two years from date, with a capital of £1,000,000 to £4,000,000 sterling: such company to have power to emit *Lettres de Gage* guaranteed by Government. They propose to introduce 1,000 families (or 5,000 persons) within five years after formation

of this company, and 3,000 in the succeeding ten years, to colonize the country lying between the Rivers Colorado and Negro, the Government ceding to the company three-fourths of a square league (4,800 acres) of land for each family introduced from any neighboring or foreign country. They further propose to introduce, within five years as above, 800 families to settle south of the Rio Negro, and so on 22,000 families within fifty subsequent years (divided in proportions of five years each), for the colonization of Patagonia proper, the Government ceding as before, at the company's choice, a square league (6,500 acres) for each family so settled. They propose to make these colonies pastoral, not agricultural, advancing to each family a sum of £400 sterling in passage money, house, maintenance for twelve months, and stock of 500 sheep, 50 cows, 3 mares, 2 horses, a waggon, seeds, farming implements, and grazing land: the amount of such advances, with interest and expenses, to be refunded by the colonists in yearly instalments not exceeding 12 per cent., which would be more than covered by the wool. They solicit from Government, besides a league of land for each family (in all 25,800 square leagues, or 155,000,000 acres), the following concession:—

«1st. Authority to govern the colony during sixty years, with a code approved by Government.

«2nd. Half the nett proceeds of import and export duties of the colony for said term.

«3rd. Exemption from import duties on all instruments and animals introduced.

«4th. Maintenance by Government of a proper military force.

«5th. Permission to build docks, railways, schools, &c.

«6th. Sanction for the Credit Mobilier Company's statutes.

«7th. Guarantee for the *Lettres de Gage*.»

Mr. Ocampo died of cholera in April 1867, and M. de Laustan went home to France. This was the last grand emigration scheme connected with Patagonia, only one of which was ever carried out, and the history thereof (the Welsh Colony) we shall now proceed to narrate.

THE WELSH COLONY.

In July 1863, the following concession was signed by the Argentine Government:—

«The Minister of Interior of the Argentine Republic, Dr. William Rawson, in name of the Government, on the one part, and a special committee of the Welsh Emigration Society, composed of the following persons:—G. H. Whalley, M. P., David Williams, High Sheriff of

Carnarvon, and Robert John Parry, of Madrin Castle, Wales—on the other part, have agreed to conclude the following contract:—

«1st. The Welsh Emigration Society shall send out, during ten years, from 300 to 500 families of emigrants yearly, and establish them in the territory of Patagonia, in the Argentine Republic, South of the Rio Negro.

«2nd. The Argentine Government grants to every 200 families a municipal fee in perpetuity of two square leagues of land, the half of such land to be devoted to edifices and public works, such as schools, churches, town-hall, house of correction, and other public purposes; the remaining half to be distributed in building plots, either to be given gratis to the first settlers, or sold afterwards for the rental support of the colony.

«3rd. In addition to the 25 squares of land given by the law to each emigrant family, the National Government will grant an area of five square leagues for every 200 families, adjacent to the respective municipality, to be divided among them.

«4th. In case the colonists require more land, they shall be permitted to buy or rent the same, of the Government, on the most moderate terms, in accordance with the laws of the country.

«5th. Any mines of metal, coal, or minerals which may be discovered, shall belong to the finder, without any other impost than the 'sovereignty' as decreed by the law.

«6th. The general management of affairs and government of the colony, shall be vested in a commissioner or governor appointed by the National Government, in the manner, and for the period, directed by the laws to be made and provided for territorial jurisdiction.

«7th. The municipal administration shall belong exclusively to the colonists, in accordance with their own regulations.

«8th. The colonists shall be exempt from all military service or contributions for the term of ten years; but they engage to defend themselves, unaided, against the Indians.

«9th. When the population of the colony shall have arrived at the number of 20,000 souls, it will enter as a new province, to form part of the nation, and, as such, shall be endowed with all the rights and privileges thereunto belonging: at the same time its territorial limits shall be definitively marked out.

«10th. The National Government, seeing the distance and solitude of these localities, will furnish the first company of emigrants with 4 pieces of artillery, 50 fanegas Indian corn, 50 fanegas wheat, 50 tons lumber for building, 200 tame horses, 50 milch cows, and 3,000 sheep.

«11th. The society will give timely notice to the Government of the

probable date when the first batch of colonists may be expected to arrive at the port of Bahia Nueva, in order that the provisions, cattle, &c. mentioned in the previous article, may be sent to that, or any other point indicated, in time to meet them on their arrival.

«12th. The colony shall be subject to the legislation to be dictated by Congress, for the government of national territories.—W. RAWSON, J. LOVE, D. JONES PARRY, LOVE JONES.»

The colonists sailed from Liverpool in the barque *Mimosa*, on April 25th, 1865, numbering 132 souls, and arrived safely at the River Chupat on the 28th of July, the site chosen for the colony being in 43 deg. 15 m. S. Lat., and 65 deg. W. Long. There were 62 adult males, 41 adult females, 17 boys, and 12 girls. From the very outset the Colony has undergone severe vicissitudes, as appears to be the fate of all new settlements; in fact, in the early part of 1867 the colonists determined to abandon the locality, and actually transported themselves and effects some 40 miles to a place of embarkation ready to leave. However, on further council, nearly all returned to their farms, and have been steadily working and progressing since. It appears the great drawback to the place, from its commencement, has been insufficient stock and implements. This has been recently remedied to some extent by the importation of some American ploughs, and 150 milch cows. There are no sheep on the settlement, although there are abundant pasture lands in the vicinity. So far, the colonists have devoted themselves to wheat growing, and, to the extent of their scanty live stock, to dairy produce. These will evidently form the staple agricultural industry of the settlement, but it is expected soon to have a few flocks of sheep in addition. Sealing, salt, and mining operations also, we hear, are in view. The Argentine Government have behaved handsomely towards the Colony. For three years it has supplied the settlers with provisions, it has spent about \$10,000 s. in cattle and seeds, &c. for the place, it has supplied all the men with arms and ammunition, it gave half the purchase money for the first schooner of the Colony, and has again assisted in the purchase of another to replace the lost one. All this without any other interest than that of encouraging emigration and developing these territories. Each settler occupies a *chacra* of 25 squares (nearly 100 acres) on the banks of the river, and receives the Government subsidies in proportion to the family.

The Tehuelche Indians—the genuine aboriginal Patagonians—visit the settlement in tribes every year, for trade and to receive their rations from the Government. The ostrich feathers and skins which they bring are a

profitable source of revenue to the colonists. Many horses and mares have been obtained from them in the same manner.

The latest advices from the Colony give the following statistics:—

Families,	33	Church,	1
Persons,	124	Milch cows,	200
Brick houses,	24	Horses and mares,	100
Ranchos,	6	Wheat sown (acres),	250

The Committee of management (twelve in number) and Superintendent of the Colony are elected annually. Secretary, Mr. R. J. Berwzn. Government Agent, Mr. L. Jones.

Five hundred lots, of 100 acres each, have been measured out by a Government surveyor, and it is calculated that the region on which the settlement is placed is capable of supporting 20,000 souls. The ground at present occupied by the Colonists extends on each side of the River Chupat over an area of twelve miles. The climate is very good, a little colder, but drier, and more bracing than that of Buenos Ayres.

Bahia Nueva, which is in the vicinity of the settlement, abounds in fish; and in the adjoining country game is very plentiful. Seals are met with in great numbers on the coast, and inland there are numerous herds of guanacos or wild llamas whose skins are highly prized, and are used by the Indians as their only garment. Stone in great variety, gypsum and salt are met with, the latter article in great abundance. It is also reported that coal exists in the neighbourhood of the settlement.

An interesting account of the colony and adjacent country is given by the Rev. Lewis Humphreys (who was chaplain at the Chupat during the first year of the settlement) in his report to the directors of the Welsh Colonising Company—

«New Bay, the place where we landed, extends twenty-two miles inland and is seven miles across the entrance. It forms a splendid port, perfectly sheltered from all except the east wind, which, however, very seldom blows; and it is spacious and deep enough to accommodate the whole navy of Great Britain at anchor. Mr. Downes, the mate of the *Mimosa*, assured me that New Bay is the best port of South America for vessels to enter and remain in perfect security.

«The River Chupat flows through at least three distinct valleys, divided from each other by chains of hills. The settlement is at present confined to the lower valley, which is about forty-five miles long and about five miles broad on the average. On the whole the land is dry, though there are a few swampy parts, which dry up entirely when the river is low. The supply of timber in this valley is limited, for though there are trees of many

kinds, they are all small, being generally not larger than the common hazel of this country. There is, nevertheless, a superabundance of brushwood, which will last us for fuel indefinitely, since it grows again after being cut. The second valley is similar to the first, and is very fertile, being covered thickly with cock plants. It contains abundance of sandstone, admirably adapted for building purposes, and the trees improve considerably in size and strength. Six hundred farms, of 100 acres each, have been measured out in this valley, in readiness for the second company of emigrants. The third valley has been only partially explored. It is narrow, and bounded on each side by rocks. What lies higher up the river is not yet known. The river water is pure and sweet, though its color is somewhat cloudy, and near the surface is frequently brackish. The unanimous verdict of every one of us is, that the climate is delightful and very healthy. A few were ill some weeks after landing, owing partly to the fatigue of carrying and arranging heavy goods, and partly to their frequently getting wet through and allowing their saturated clothing to dry upon their persons; otherwise no cases of sickness occurred, whilst many instances might be given of the perfect restoration to health of invalids. Indigestion, headache, toothache, colds, and consumption are unknown there, although I and many others have frequently slept in the open air night after night in the depth of winter, which is so genial that no evil effects followed an amount of exposure which would certainly have proved fatal in any part of Great Britain. Owing, however, to our being compelled to subsist on salted meat during the passage out, and for the first few months after landing, the majority of us suffered more or less from scurvy, and some of us from boils. Still, all these inconveniences did not prevent our enjoying to the utmost the splendid atmosphere, which kept us constantly hungry, and was praised by every one as the 'healthiest a man ever breathed.' I believe that every person in the colony ate double what sufficed him at home. With such an excellent climate it is not surprising that the land should be extremely fertile. We discovered several kinds of edible wild plants, such as wild celery and turnips, and a sort of potato, all of which were very good.

Various unavoidable delays which took place at Liverpool and at New Bay prevented our settling ourselves ready for work until about two months after the proper season for sowing wheat, consequently all hopes of a crop for the first year had to be abandoned. We sowed small quantities of Indian corn, barley, potatoes, and garden seeds, all of which grew excellently, and yielded a gratifying crop. It is absolutely necessary to sow wheat before the end of the winter, in order that it may fructify before the period of summer heat, which would otherwise scorch it rather than

ripen it. The wheat harvest takes place about Christmas, so that the news about the crop cannot reach this country before the end of January next. We labored under the grave disadvantage of not possessing an adequate stock of implements of husbandry, and consequently were unable to sow as much as we ought to have done last season. We had two ploughs from England, and Mr. Lewis Jones obtained an American plough at Patagones. We had also a few Argentine ploughs, but they were of very little use. We kept two men constantly at work ploughing, and succeeded in sowing about sixty acres with wheat; and when I left they were busily engaged preparing ground for a second setting of potatoes, Indian corn, &c. We had at that time been supplied with many thousands of young trees for planting, among which were 4,000 fruit trees. The people generally were in excellent spirits, and looked forward to success as a certainty. Those among us who at first took a desponding view, and neglected to cultivate their farms, now praise the climate and the land, and resolve to work in earnest. Nothing whatever was wanted but a crop in its due season, and every indication appeared to justify our expectations of a favorable harvest. The locality has shown itself to be highly satisfactory, and our faith has given place to the certainty resulting from the possession of tangible proofs. And I may be permitted to observe here that as the products of the Chupat valley correspond in all other respects to those of the Rio Negro valley, there is no reason to suppose that wheat and sheep will prove to be exceptions. At the Spanish settlement on the Negro (Patagones) wheat has been largely grown during the last twenty years on the same ground, and the increase has been frequently as much as forty-fold. I learnt also that the increase in sheep at Patagones has been very pleasing this year. On one estancia alone there are 100,000 sheep, being an increase of no less than 30,000 in one year. The capital on that place last year was 70,000 sheep. Cattle are fat, and horses plenty. The sheep we had at New Bay were large and well-woolled, and no doubt they will have increased in the same proportion as the sheep just mentioned; in fact, they were brought from the very flocks referred to. Our horses and cattle were remarkably fine and fat, even in winter, when they require no housing or other attention, as the pasturage is abundant and excellent all the year round. At the time I left we had about 100 cattle, sixty of which were milch cows, two full-grown bulls, and a number of younger ones. We had about forty horses, and each family possessed pigs and fowls, all of which were increasing rapidly. In some of the farm-yards the fowls were sufficiently abundant to recall to mind the homesteads of Caermarthenshire. None of us chose to kill cattle for food, owing to the paucity of their number, and

the pigs and fowls had not increased sufficiently for us to commence eating them; and, indeed, there was not the slightest necessity to interfere with them, for the whole territory literally swarms with game; hares, guanacos, armadillos, ducks, geese, partridge, and ostriches, and the river and bay furnish an ample supply of fish. The hares are very large, and commonly weigh from 18 $\overline{\text{lb}}$ to 20 $\overline{\text{lb}}$, whilst the birds are very fat and frequently find their way into the cooking-kettle.

«It is an act of the merest justice for me to state that the Government of the Argentine Republic has acted in a most liberal and praiseworthy manner towards the Welsh Colony. Our president, Mr. William Davis, visited Buenos Ayres near the end of 1865, and obtained from the Government a monthly grant of \$700, to be paid until the colony becomes self-supporting, and supplies have been regularly furnished ever since through the agency of Mr. H. Harris, a merchant long established at Patagones. I must also not omit to mention gratefully the valuable assistance afforded us by the native Indians. The chief of the tribe sent us a letter asking for English saddles and rum, in exchange for skins, &c., and I understand that a treaty of peace and commerce has since been made. Two families of Indians have been several months established in the colony, and to their assistance we owed the greater part of game we obtained. They bartered large quantities of fresh meat for small pieces of bread, and exchanged mares for horses. The colonists now possess about 40 dogs, and the consequence of both these circumstances, is, that they have begun to tire of a superabundance of fresh meat. When I left, very few persons lived in the fort: the majority had built brick-houses, and many had gone to live upon their own farms.

«In the proper season, seal-fishery is carried on to a great extent along the coast of Patagonia, principally by English and North American sailors, who know their haunts. On several occasions some of the settlers have seen multitudes of seals basking on the beach of New Bay, and have killed a few with sticks. New Bay is a general rendezvous for vessels engaged in this business, and a trade has sprung up between them and the settlers, which will become an important element in the well-being of the colony, as soon as we are in a position to supply them with fresh provisions, &c. Some of the settlers have visited a number of Guano islands, which lie within easy reach of the colony, and have seen the guano, but as it varies greatly in quality, even on the same spot, it will be necessary to employ men well acquainted with it to superintend the selection and loading of a cargo.

«Having thus touched upon all the points connected with the settlement

that I can call to mind, I will relate two important and interesting episodes. On the 17th September, 1865, the Comandante of Patagones, accompanied by several Argentine officials and a military guard, performed the ceremony of formally giving us possession of the territory and naming our first town the 'The Rawson,' in honor of Dr. William Rawson, the Minister of the Interior, who has manifested a true and deep interest in the establishment of the colony. In March 1866, a sealer entered New Bay, and two of the settlers availed themselves of the opportunity to migrate to the Falkland Islands. This desertion suggested to others of a similar class the idea of sending a memorial to the Falkland Islands praying to be removed from the Welsh settlement. The memorial misrepresented the state of affairs, and was dispatched without the knowledge of the general body of the settlers. In consequence of that memorial Her Britannic Majesty's ship Triton visited the colony in June last, to remove the people in a body, if necessary. This offer caused the greatest astonishment in the settlement, and enquiries were made to ascertain who among them had been guilty of sending the memorial. The commander of the Triton produced the document for inspection, when it was found that very few names had been appended, and the greater part of those individuals denied their complicity when taxed with it. We at once declined to leave the colony, and the Triton, having assisted us to repair our little schooner and presented us with a cask of lime-juice, left us where we chose to remain.»

In 1868 a sad misfortune befell the colony in the loss of the little schooner and six of the colonists, viz.:—Robert F. Nagle, captain, from Liverpool; George Jones, from Liverpool; James Jones, from Caermarthenshire, having a wife and family in the colony; Thomas D. Evans, Manchester, also having a wife and family in the colony; David Davies, from Aberdare, having his parents in the colony; and Thomas Cadivor Woods, Secretary of the Welsh Colonising Company at home, who had recently arrived in the Colony to report upon it, and had taken a trip to see Patagones before returning home.

The colony sustained another loss in the departure of ten settlers, who have joined the Californian colony in the Gran Chaco. Latest advices are, however, more cheering:—«The Colony is marching steadily onward. The provisions, clothes, and wheat, barley, and cattle were all safely landed, and caused universal joy and activity. Active Indian trade has been done, and was doing when I left.»

The success of the Welsh Colony may be said to rest on the future support it will meet with in regard to an augmentation in its number. It is almost superfluous to remark that any new batch of emigrants would not

encounter the same misfortunes that befell the original settlers. Too great stress, however, cannot be laid on the following points as a guide to emigrants who may contemplate joining their countrymen :—

1. That they should come out with some capital.
2. That they should bring with them ploughs, hand-mills, seeds, and lumber, for the construction of huts, as there are few trees in the country.
3. That they should sail from England in the month of March, in order to arrive at the Chupat in time to prepare the ground they will be called upon to cultivate, before the season for sowing, which in this country is in the months of May and June.

FREE LAND-GRANTS AT BAHIA BLANCA.

It will interest many Englishmen who come to this country with the intention of settling, to know that camp can be taken out direct from the Argentine Government in «propiedad,» at Bahia Blanca to the extent of one «suerte» (6,700 acres) in one name, on condition that a house or «rancho» is built upon the land, and a flock of sheep placed upon it, within one year after allotment. The cost of solicitation and surveying, &c., say £40. By a flock of sheep is meant 1,000 head.

After allotment of camp a deposit is required of \$10,000 mpc. or £80, to be made with the Provincial Bank, which is returned when the above conditions have been complied with, but is forfeited should the depositor fail to comply. The Provincial Bank allows six per cent. per annum on this deposit. At the end of two years, when the Justice of the Peace of the district has certified that all conditions have been duly carried out, the title deeds are forthcoming. It must be distinctly understood that the land must be occupied during the whole of the term of two years. Land can still be obtained within twelve or fourteen leagues of the town and port of Bahia Blanca, and all the banks of the numerous rivers in the neighbourhood have not been taken up, though with the increasing number of new settlers going down this will not long be the case.

It is stated that vessels of any tonnage can enter the bay, and there seems no doubt that a good landing place might easily be found. The present settlement is composed chiefly of Englishmen, who would welcome any new settlers, and give them all the assistance in their power. The close proximity of the Indians is the chief drawback ; but so long as cattle is not reared, there is little to tempt them within range of the Snider rifles. Indians cannot carry corn on horseback, neither do sheep travel on foot fast enough for their purpose, so this is no very great impediment after all. The frontier is to be moved to within thirty leagues of Bahia Blanca,

at the close of this unhappy war, which will give greatly increased protection.

The land and climate are both admirably suited for agriculture, and the natives grow a great deal of corn there already. It may be mentioned, that scarcely three years ago land could be obtained at Azul on the same terms as at Bahia Blanca, and it now fetches \$100,000 or about £800 per «suerte.» The latter place has the great advantage of a seaboard, while all the produce of the former has to be conveyed to market in bullock-carts at no small cost.

Sheep—Picked flocks can be bought at \$20 m/c, or 3s. 4d. per head, and fatten wonderfully on these camps. There seems no reason why sheep-farmers should not boil down their own sheep, and thus net the profit of the saladero, and save the great loss of grease, which travelling any number of leagues must always entail. This could the more easily be done here, as the transit is comparatively easy.

Intending settlers should secure the services of some good English laborers, as native labor is both scarce and dear. The usual wages are from \$300 to \$350, or say £2 10s. to £3 per month. A steamer runs once a month between Buenos Ayres and Bahia Blanca, and as there is no opposition at present, the charges are very high, but directly there is sufficient trade to make one pay, it will not be difficult to get one on the berth to make regular passages at moderate rates. There is also an Italian schooner which makes frequent trips to Bahia Blanca, bringing up the produce of the place. Bahia Blanca being situated so far from Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, will never be troubled by the many revolutions which so often occur here, which is of itself a great thing in its favor. In the face of the bad returns that sheepfarming has given during the last few years, coming settlers ought to turn their attention in the direction of this noted corn-growing district.

An Englishman who recently made a trip to Bahia Blanca and Patagones, describes those places as well suited for new settlers; his narrative is the following —

«We started from Buenos Ayres in the steamer Patagones, on the 10th ult., and after three days of beautiful weather arrived at the port of Bahia Blanca. The entrance to this place must prove a great drawback to its future advancement, as the windings of the channel remind one of trying to follow the turns of a corkscrew. From the steamer's anchorage to the shore appears to be about a mile distant, but the windings of the creek are such that the boats have to be rowed at least a league. However, having overcome these little difficulties, we reached the mole (which is constructed

of several old bullock carts), and were kindly received by Señor Coronti, who furnished us with horses to proceed to the town, which is about two leagues from the landing-place. Having taken a walk round in the evening we saw all that is to be seen about the town, which is not much, though there are some nice chacras and quintas in the vicinity. Next morning, Señor Coronti had horses ready for us, and his son kindly accompanied us as a guide, to have a look at the camps on the Naposta, which is a small river rising in the interior, and running through the town. For two or three leagues up the stream the valley of the Naposta is under cultivation, and the wheat crop looks very promising. The camps we found much better than we had anticipated, and Señor Coronti offers very fair terms to settlers, and great praise is due to him for the way in which he has exerted all his energy for the advancement of Bahia Blanca, and for his unbounded hospitality to strangers. In the evening we were introduced to the commandant, who showed us through the fort, which, in comparison with the others we have seen on the frontier, is certainly a model of neatness and order. The following morning we embarked for Patagones, and in eighteen hours found ourselves off the mouth of the Rio Negro; the bar being in good order for crossing, we at once entered this finest of Argentine rivers, and steamed up to the town of Carmen or Patagones, lying about seven leagues from the mouth of the river. We were favorably impressed with the first appearance of the country. The banks on each side of the river (which at the town is about 150 yards wide), are beautifully laid out in chacras, quintas, &c., and the trees and range of hills beyond reminded us more of the old country than anything we have as yet seen in South America. Having effected a landing, which is much more easily accomplished here than in most Argentine ports, the steamer lying within about ten yards from the north bank, we found that Patagones was far before the sister town of Bahia Blanca in its accommodation for travellers, each family seeming to vie with the other in trying to make strangers feel at home.

«But, to resume our journey. The next morning, having got horses from Señor Aguirre, who offers every assistance to parties wishing to look at the camps, we started up the north side of the river, which, for a distance of six or seven leagues, until you reach the Fortin, is thickly covered with a bushy scrub, the range of hills coming down to the river's edge. But, after passing this, the country opens out into fine level camp, lying between the hills and the river, which we found covered with excellent pasture. The sheep and cattle were very fat, and the flocks remarkably clean. Towards evening we arrived at the China Muerta estancia, belonging to Señores Heusser and Clarez, where we stayed till next morning. This

estancia is one of the finest in this part of the country; the camp is excellent, and has a large river frontage, besides permanent 'lagunas' in the back. Next morning we resumed our journey, and arrived at the Guardia in time for breakfast. This is a stirring little place, there being no less than six stores, all of which seem to do a strong trade with the Indians; several tame tribes of the latter live in the vicinity, and are constantly to be seen going about in their native costume of 'quillangos.' The same evening we arrived at the estancia of four Scotchmen, the first of our countrymen settled in this quarter, and who, with their proverbial hospitality, insisted on our making this our headquarters during our stay. We were happy to see that though but lately started they had made very fair progress, and were looking forward to good returns.

«We crossed the Rio Negro at the Guardia, and swam our horses over, and then rode up some four leagues to the 'tolderia' of the Indian cacique Saihueque, who had just arrived from the Manzanas, with about 130 men. From Buenos Ayres accounts of these Indians we expected to meet a set of ferocious savages, and consequently felt rather doubtful what kind of reception we should get; but we were agreeably surprised to find the chief a fine looking, intelligent, and altogether superior man, who received us very kindly. We spent a couple of hours with him, squatted in front of his toldo, and before leaving we purchased a few skins, &c., from them, and returned highly delighted with our visit. To a stranger, an Indian 'tolderia,' or encampment, with its huts of guanaco skins, and its swarthy inhabitants variously engaged—some cooking, some bringing firewood, others sleeping, and the women sewing the 'quillangos' with ostrich sinews—the war lances stuck in the earth in front of the tents, and the immense number of horses feeding over the plains, is altogether an imposing and interesting sight. These Indians do not disturb the country, as in the northern provinces; but come in, quarterly, for the rations allowed to them by the Government, and therefore it is to their interest to keep themselves quiet.

«Returning to the north side, we rode up some eight leagues further on. Here, as lower down, the camps were in excellent condition. The 'rincons' formed by the river are very numerous, and well suited for agriculture; this is carried on to a good extent in the district, both sides of the river being under cultivation, and the wheat crops looking very promising. The next day, having said good-bye to our countrymen, we again crossed the river at the Guardia, returning to the town on the south side. Here the camp looked beautiful, and was of much larger extent than that on the north side, the hills being very far from the river.

«The Rio Negro is well wooded on both sides, and studded here and there with islands, some of which are under cultivation, and others covered with trees, adding much beauty to the scenery; in fact, the view from some of the higher points of the hills, looking up the river, we have seldom seen equalled. The river seems to vary very little in breadth, and from good authority we learn that it has been navigated for forty leagues higher up by a pilot-boat drawing four or five feet of water; but, unless propelled by steam, this navigation must be tedious, on account of the strong current running down.»

ENGLISH SETTLERS ON THE RIO NEGRO.

Advices from the Rio Negro to September 1868, are as follows:—

«The English settlers are going on very prosperously, and are planting wheat in large quantities, at the same time they have sheep and cattle. Messrs. Frazer and Co. have a league of excellent land on the banks of the Rio Negro, in a 'rincon' formed by a bend of the stream, about thirteen leagues above Patagones; they have sown fifty fanegas of wheat, which at present looks beautiful, and next year they intend laying the whole of their land under the same crop. Three families formerly of the Chupat Welsh Colony, are settled about twelve leagues higher up than Frazer's; their wheat is also in excellent condition. In fact, the whole country looks blooming with corn-fields at greater or lesser intervals, and the Rio Negro is rapidly becoming a wheat country. Englishmen arrive at Patagones by every steamer, to lay down wheat, as land is very cheap, and there is no fear of Indians. Government grants of land may be had higher up the river, and Messrs. Aguirre and Murga are sending down, at once, a little steamer drawing three feet of water, for the navigation of the Rio Negro. Messrs. Kincaid have also a fine estancia, nineteen leagues from Patagones, where they are also planting wheat, and have some sheep and cattle, besides a splendid quinta. The government has resolved to place 1,500 men on the Rio Negro frontier, and the first batch of 150 goes down immediately. This shows that our legislators attach due importance to the rising colony, in which Englishmen are becoming the chief settlers. We understand there is a project before the Chambers, for a railway from Patagones to Salinas, for the conveyance of salt to the seaboard. The flour-mill now building on the banks of the Rio Negro, about five leagues from Patagones, will be concluded before the end of the year, and will prove a great boon to the town, as hitherto the wheat had to be ground by hand.»

FOREIGN SETTLERS AT BAHIA BLANCA.

The following are the names of the principal foreign settlers at Bahia Blanca. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are already occupying the land:—

*P. Corronti,	*Arthur Mildred, and	P. de Montravel,
*J. Birtoli,	2 English laborers,	J. Corbyn,
*Fusoni Brothers,	*J. H. Edwards,	J. Barber,
*George Claraz,	*R. J. Greuie,	William Perkins,
*J. Arnold,	*H. Hentze,	F. Daniel,
*John Sinclair,	*Richard Newton,	— Webb,
*Richard Tillard,	J. Schuriz,	E. Herbert,
*S. J. Eyre,	H. W. Goodhall,	A. Huber,
*John Mildred,	F. Smiles,	L. Jacob,
*E. P. Goodhall,	Rev. Mr. Powell,	J. Jaccar,
*Bryan Smith,	T. Fallon,	J. Jockez.

The greater number of the English portion of the above are settled on the banks of a river, known as the Sauce Grande, situated about ten leagues from Bahia Blanca, to the north. They have some twenty-five squares of land under cultivation, sown with wheat, barley, and maize—this being their first year—and we may look forward to seeing three times this extent of camp turned up for next season.

By the commencement of 1869 a large brick-built estancia-house will be finished, and before June next two other smaller ones.

We have great hopes of the newly-elected President, Señor Sarmiento, and trust he may afford us the protection that is alone wanted to make this part of the Republic a most prosperous district. He may rest assured that European energy, combined with capital, will accomplish the work of civilisation, if it is only allowed to run its course unmolested, and in a very short space of time will change a comparatively waste corner of this province into a thriving and populated country.

CHAP. VII.

RIO DE LA PLATA AND TRIBUTARIES.

THE River Plate is one of the longest rivers in the world, including its two great tributaries, the Paraná and Uruguay. Suffice it to say that the traveller can take steamer at Montevideo and ascend without interruption to the capital of Matto Grosso, a distance of over two thousand miles. At Montevideo the river is about 75 miles wide, but the water is brackish: at Buenos Ayres the water is quite fresh, and the river is 28 miles wide. Twenty miles above Buenos Ayres we arrive at the junction of the Paraná and Uruguay. The lower Paraná is about 900 miles long from its embouchure, near San Fernando, up to the Tres Bocas, above Corrientes: the upper Paraná, from the Tres Bocas to the Salto de Guayra is only navigable for small boats. The Paraguay river, which debouches into the Paraná at Tres Bocas, is navigable as far as the Cuyabá: on this latter stream is built a city of the same name, residence of the Brazilian authorities of Matto Grosso, about 1,100 miles above the city of Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay. The Uruguay is ordinarily navigable only as high as Salto, but in flood-times the steamers ascend the rapids and go up to Uruguayana and San Borja, in the Brazilian province of Rio Grande. The Rio Negro is one of the chief affluents of the Uruguay; the Salado of the Paraná; and the Vermejo, Tebiquari, and Pilcomayo fall into the Paraguay.

THE PARANÁ.

Buenos Ayres to Matto Grosso.

Before the breaking-out of the Paraguayan war there was a regular Brazilian monthly mail-service from Buenos Ayres to Cuyabá, making the trip in ten to twelve days. The vessels were of light draught, and the accommodations pretty good. At the same time the Paraguayan Government had a fine line of steamers plying twice a month between Asuncion and Montevideo. Various private companies also had steamers running from Buenos Ayres to Corrientes, and an ineffectual attempt was made to navigate the Vermejo. The scenery from Buenos Ayres to Cuyabá has much of interest for the traveller, although at times the coast is low and marshy, and the wooded outline of the Chaco, at last grows monotonous and wearisome: there are sundry important towns and halting places.

If we leave the roadstead of Buenos Ayres on a fine morning, nothing can be more charming than the panorama of the city and suburbs. We pass, in succession, Palermo with its plantations to the water's edge; Belgrano, seated on a gentle acclivity, Point Olivos, a handsome promontory, where a new town has been projected; San Isidro, with its delightful country-seats; and San Fernando, at the head of the estuary of La Plata.

We enter the Paraná by one of its many mouths, the best known of which are the Guazú and Palmas: the latter is the shorter route, used by small steamers which touch at Zarate and San Pedro. The delta of the Paraná comprises a multitude of fertile and picturesque islands, planted with fruit-trees; and if the traveller halts at San Fernando or the Tigre, he can amuse himself for several days by boating in the Conchas and Lujan rivers, or making an excursion to the Carapachay islands. These islands are poetically termed the Argentine Tempe; they teem with the richest fruits, and a number of Italian charcoal-burners are the principal inhabitants. We do not get a glimpse of the mainland till reaching Campana, the estancia of Dr. Costa, late Minister of Education, who has built a fine house on the bluff.

Zarate is a straggling village of 1,000 inhabitants, with a small trade in grain, firewood, and vegetables. The principal shopkeeper is an Italian, Constancio Silvano. There is a new church, also a tolerable Basque inn, and two public schools which are attended by 106 children. The adjacent estancias of Latorre, Lima, Saavedra, and Fox, are worthy of mention. The cultivation of grain has greatly increased of late years. During

the Paraguayan war this has been the chief port for shipment of horses. The 'barrancas' on our left are precipitous, and here and there crowned with a hut or ombú-tree, till we reach—

Baradero: this is another small port, comprising 105 houses, a church, and an unfinished school-house. The place derives some importance from a flourishing Swiss colony. The department comprises ninety-two estancias, of which seven belong to Irishmen: the largest proprietor is D. Patricio Lynch.

San Pedro is a better town than the preceding, and looks well from the river: it has a new church, fifty-six rateable houses, and two public schools. D. Martin Pagardoy keeps a good inn, and is favorably known to all the Irish sheepfarmers. A little above San Pedro is the pass of Obligado, where the English and French cut the chain placed across the river by Rosas. Higher up is the fine estancia of Llavallo, at a point of the river called Rincon de Las Hermanas, after which we pass the Rincon Ramallo.

San Nicolas is the last town in the territory of Buenos Ayres; it is a place of some importance, having received the rank of 'city,' with a population of about 8,000 souls. It has 300 rateable houses, besides Mr. Armstrong's valuable mill. It is the centre of a district which comprises sixty-five estancias, and a number of chacras under wheat.

By daybreak we are coasting the territory of Santa Fé, and in less than twenty-four hours from our departure from Buenos Ayres we are in sight of Rosario: the steamer goes alongside a wharf, there being deep water close to shore.

Rosario is the great outlet of the upper Provinces, and will shortly be connected by railway with Cordoba, the chief city of the interior: the trade of the port has much increased of late years, especially since the beginning of the Central Argentine Railway. The 'barranca' is so high that there is no view of the place till you reach the Calle Puerto. It is a well-built town covering 150 cuadras or blocks, with a population of 20,000 souls. The plaza, parish church, custom-house, market-place, and Jardin de Recreo, are worthy of notice: the theatre was recently burnt down. The railway terminus and workshops at the North end will repay a visit. The town also possesses two mills, three saladeros, two cemeteries (for Catholics and Protestants), a public hospital, an American chapel and school, and gas-works in course of erection. There are some good hotels and coffee-houses. Messrs. Keane and Soames, agents for the *Standard*, will give strangers any information they may require. Mr. Hutchinson, H.B.M. Consul, lives beyond the railway terminus. Excursions may be

made by rail to the English settlement at Frayle Muerto, or on horseback to the fine English estancias in the valley of Pavon. For further particulars of Rosario, see the chapter on Santa Fé province.

On leaving Rosario, the first thing that calls attention is Mr. Wheelwright's mole for landing materials for the Cordoba railway; they have cut away the 'barranca' and erected works projecting into the river. We next pass Urquiza's saladero, and another a short distance higher up. The Parana is here very wide, at least 2,000 yards, and the current runs three miles an hour, the water being very deep in the channels. The islands on all sides are low and slightly wooded, and we can see the mainland on either side.

About six leagues above Rosario we sight the edifice of San Lorenzo, with its tapering belfry and large convent. This was erected by the Franciscan missionaries, years gone by, with the probable view of forming a nucleus of civilization on the frontier of the Indian territory, and is excellently adapted for a river port, having a small cove hard by. The cove alluded to, was the scene of the first struggle for South American independence; General San Martín (1810) here attacked a Spanish force which attempted to land, defeating them with a handful of cavalry.

The high land on our left soon merges into a network of islands, the deep water channel skirting along the opposite coast, which presents a number of inlets, through which we get glimpses of wood and dale, perfectly charming, in contrast with the sloping 'barrancas' of sand-stone or tosca. The soil of these, generally presents to the eye a superficies of luxuriant grass, or thick shrubbery, and casually a grove of trees, resembling the olive, at a distant view. The section made in successive ages, by the river, shows a variety of geological strata. A thick, loamy, dark soil, of six or eight feet, covers a layer of sand, beneath which latter, the hard tosca stretches down to the water's edge, the base being lined or interspersed with sand heaps, fragments of boulders, or trunks of up-rooted trees.

The approach to Paraná, is highly picturesque: towering bluffs of red sand-stone, here and there relieved by a wild furze of deep green, the effect being very pleasing to the eye. There are several lime-kilns along the Entre Riano coast, as the sand here makes excellent lime: it looks like tosca, and the lime appears of the best quality, its snowy heaps studding the beach. About a mile below Paraná are some hulks, used for coal deposits. The town of Paraná is not visible from the landing-place. The scenery of this part of the river, all the way from Rosario, is interesting, but there is a solemn stillness on these rivers that almost oppresses you.

When we lose sight of the bluff on which Rosario stands, the coast of Entre Rios is not visible, while that of Santa Fé gradually declines towards the water's level. Here and there a stray rancho indicates that pastoral avocations are not quite abandoned, in a province which has been reduced almost to destitution by being the theatre of so many wars. At times also we see a small group of horses or horned cattle, which have made their way down one of the fissures caused by rains or inundations to drink the mellifluous water, which possesses many grateful and salubrious qualities. Before long, the islands on our right will have disappeared, and the continuous line of a bold barrier, on either side, shows that the current here is uninterrupted, and consequently runs with tremendous force, the stream being about two miles wide.

On arriving at Paraná the steamer is usually boarded by the agent, Mr. Lorenzo Myers, a veteran Englishman of seventy-seven summers, resident in the River Plate since the year of Independence, 1816. He is a hale, active, old man, and has been an eye-witness of the numberless vicissitudes of the Republic during the last half century. Paraná was the capital of the Argentine Republic during nine years, from the fall of Rosas till the battle of Pavon (September 17, 1861). The Custom-house is at the foot of the «barranca,» and a steep road leads up to the town. First is the Church of San Miguel, commenced fifteen years ago, but abandoned when half built, and now a refuge for all kinds of vermin. There are, however, two good churches in the town, and these are quite enough, as the population does not exceed 8,000. The grand plaza is very pretty, and the buildings on all its sides modern and tasteful, most of them having been constructed under Presidents Urquiza and Derqui. The old Government-house is now ceded to Dr. Fitzsimons for a college. The Legislative Chambers are a fine range, occupying the north side: the President's palace also merits attention. But the sceptre of metropolitan sway is gone. Paraná is now all but deserted, the only signs of vitality being a newspaper and a theatre sometimes visited by strolling players. The club house is, perhaps, the greatest monument of desolation: the ball-room has been cut into two bed-chambers and a kitchen, for a coffee house; the billiard-room and reading saloon are let out to a hair-dresser, and nothing remains of former greatness.

A steamer plies across the river to Santa Fé city, remarkable for its antiquity and many fine churches. A number of islands intervene, completely shutting it out from view.

Leaving Paraná we are forced to make a circuit of a couple of miles, to avoid the bank, which has already nearly closed up the port. The first

object of interest is the saladero built by Messrs. Señorans, with first-class steam-power attached. The main stream washes the banks of Entre Rios, and on our right is a vast archipelago, on whose islands there is little timber, but a strong luxuriant grass, which is sold in Paraná for fodder. There is a marked improvement in the scenery: amid a succession of gentle undulations on the right, the eye wanders over a rich champaign country, presenting much the idea of an English park or demesne. Groups of noble trees, like oaks, break the surface of a verdant vegetation, and Nature has outdone the fancy work of a landscape gardener in the rich variation of tints and foliage, the graceful outlines of hill and vale, the stately forms of pine and algarroba, which every moment present themselves.

Five leagues from Paraná we sight a cluster of ranchos, called «The Spaniards,» the owners of which usually hoist their flag to salute vessels passing by. Behind this little settlement, which is occupied in cutting timber, is the colony of Villa Urquiza, where great efforts were made to plant cotton in 1864. A little further we meet a place where boats usually cross over to Santa Fé, taking horses in tow. These animals swim much better than in Europe, and it will be remembered that Urquiza has several times passed at the Diamante an army of cavalry, for which Hannibal would have required rafts or bridges. Diamante is some leagues below Paraná, and is now deserted.

Two hours' sail beyond Villa Urquiza brings us to a place called Conchillas, where we perceive an estancia-house almost surrounded by trees. Next appears a lonely hut, commanding a grand view from the barranca, and the adjuncts of a cattle corral and small port show that animals are here embarked for the saladeros.

At Cerrito was the fine estancia of an Englishman, the late Mr. Henry Vidal. Here it was that during the campaign of Paz and Lavalle against Rosas, the Correntino army, under General Ferré, abandoned the liberating cause, and returned by land to Corrientes, owing to local dissensions in that province. The cliffs again approach the water; but instead of sand or tosca we have argillaceous deposits of red and purple colors, which are said to be very valuable for dyes, although not turned to use, as no one seems to interest himself in the speculation. Happily, there is no jealous guardian of woods and forests, and several small skiffs in yonder island are loading timber, which is had for the cutting. These wood-cutters are Italians, who trade with Buenos Ayres, and the Genoese may be said to monopolise the small traffic of this river. The river now breaks into a variety of channels, and the pilot has sometimes to take soundings. We cannot see the Gran Chaco, from which we are separated by numerous

islands, teeming with tigers and small crocodiles; the latter are called caymans, and resemble what naturalists term the 'iguana.' Times have changed wonderfully since twenty years ago, when the voyage from Buenos Ayres to Paraguay occupied half a year. The Italians first introduced an improvement, making two or three trips annually, and the introduction of steamers soon reduced the voyage to a few days. Still, the windings of the river, frequency of sandbanks, and force of the current, call for the most constant attention, and going «aguas arriba» is rather tedious for those who are not admirers of the beautiful and picturesque. Tradition says that the first Spanish expedition to Paraguay passed more than twelve months in exploring the long and tortuous course of the Paraná, for although the direct distance is only 1,000 miles, the way is rendered very much longer by the necessity of crossing and re-crossing from one side to the other. Certainly the adventurous settlers of the sixteenth century were men of surpassing energy and perseverance. It is impossible for us to form an idea of the hardships and dangers they must have gone through, penetrating to the very centre of the Continent to establish a metropolis amid the woods and wilds of an unknown country. Such as they then looked upon these cliffs and islands they are to-day, for Nature, in her simplest and rudest garb, still holds undisputed sway in these silent regions.

For thousands of ages this mighty river has flowed on to the sea, and yet it is exactly the same as when first Creation dawned upon the universe. The arts or science of man are nowhere visible for hundreds of miles, and the various layers of soil forming the islands only show that during numberless generations the stream has continued to carry down its deposits till they have risen above the surrounding flood, decked out in all the charms of tropical Nature, with trees of various kinds, most of them, probably, yet unknown to botanists. A thick jungle of marshy grass and entangled underwood, which almost defies the entrance of man, affords a secure and favorite asylum for tigers, serpents, and alligators, except when the current rises to the tops of the trees, and a broad sheet of water stretches from either mainland to the opposite side. Then may be seen the tigers swimming across, with powerful strokes, perfectly heedless of and unmoved by the rapid whirlpools. In many places the casual groupings of foliage, broken here and there by lovely rivulets which tempt you to follow their mysterious recesses, present a picture such as Salvator Rosa or Claude Lorrain never saw even in fancy. It is a pity to think that these islands are never to be turned to any purpose or defended against the torrent, for the soil is so loose that it will hold no structure. The bed of

the stream has changed often, and some towns erected on its banks are now almost inaccessible, so many islands intervene.

About twelve hours' sail from Paraná is La Paz, near the borders of Corrientes: the town is a poor place, but some leagues inland is a fine estancia belonging to Mr. Haycroft, and managed by Dr. Gibbings. Leaving La Paz, we have the same general features already described. For some distance the river spreads out to an amazing width, the coast being on each side very low, and lined with timber. About twenty-five leagues above La Paz we come to the mouth of the Arroyo Espinillo, which is the frontier line between Entre Rios and Corrientes. On Captain Page's map it is marked Sarandi or Guayquiraro, which falls into the former: it is not navigable. Again there is a number of these delightful islands, revelling in all the beauty of tropical vegetation, with palmetto trees, and a plant bearing golden leaves, easily mistaken for oranges. But what do we see on the margin of the Gran Chaco, in yonder island? Some huts of palm trees, scarce large enough to hold a man at full length. They are the abode of some daring wood-cutters, undeterred by the tigers, which swarm hereabout, or the distance from any trace of human life. The savages of the Chaco never come down here, as they have plenty of means to pursue their occupations of hunting, fishing, or wood-cutting on the mainland. Every few minutes we cross the river, which is here about a mile wide, and very shallow. The coast of Corrientes is low, but well wooded, and yonder is a little hut, elevated on poles, and with a tile roof, which answers as the Capitania del Puerto for Esquina, this town being half a league distant on the mainland.

Esquina is a well-built town, of 1,200 to 1,500 inhabitants, situate on an eminence at a bend of the River Corrientes, near its confluence with the Paraná. It possesses a good church, public schools, juzgado, and other edifices, extending along the crest of the hill for about a mile, most of the houses having azoteas, with wide verandahs for shelter against the rays of an almost tropical sun. The surrounding country is remarkable for its excellent pasture, and the inhabitants are wealthy cattle-breeders, sheep being comparatively few. Mr. Hayes, the son of an American, is the only foreign resident in the town. In the year 1838 Mr. Hayes's father killed a serpent which measured twelve feet in length and fifteen inches in circumference, and, on opening the monster, three hens, seemingly uninjured, were found in its stomach: he sent the skin to the United States, where it was stuffed, and is still to be seen. The bite of these reptiles is not fatal. There is an abundance of tigers about here, and some years ago a washerwoman was devoured near the river. The Custom-house, or Aduana, is

a small wooden hut elevated on poles, ten feet above the stream, in an island half a league distant from the town. Vessels call so rarely that sometimes no officials visit the place for several days. It happened some time back that a priest was left here by the Paraguay steamer, and being unable to thread his way through the thickets and cross the rivulets, he resolved to pass the night here: some hungry tigers prowling about smelled human flesh, and sacrilegiously resolved to make a meal of him. The priest taking alarm scrambled up on the roof, and sat on the tiles until daybreak. As there was no steamer expected to arrive, the usual passenger boat did not come down the 'arroyo,' and one of the wild beasts kept watch below, thinking the stranger might be driven by hunger to run the gauntlet and make towards town. In this manner the poor priest passed two awful days and nights before he was relieved from his perilous post. The Gran Chaco continues on our left, in its savage grandeur, and the scenery is much the same as we have passed, except that the thickets have grown into forests, the trees lifting their massive branches to a great height: they are mostly very straight and covered with a dark green or light brown foliage. At intervals the sandy beach is strewn with withered and uprooted trunks, highly useful for shipbuilding.

Six leagues above Esquina we pass Costa Tala, where the stream attains an enormous width. Carpinchos or sea hogs now show themselves on the river-bank, disporting in the grass. Higher up on our left, a short distance inland, are the ruins of two Jesuit missions, Concepcion and S. Jeronimo, the second near a stream called Arroyo del Rey.

By daybreak we are in sight of Goya, where a hut stands on the edge of an island, acting both as Custom-house and landing place for passengers. About the commencement of the present century, the site now occupied by the town of Goya was a cattle farm occupied by a Portuguese whose wife was named Gregoria, familiarly contracted into Goya. Here the ships passing used to call for beef, and the position was so favorable that the Government resolved to build a town thereon. Goya is capital of the richest district in the province, and one of the finest towns on the Parana. The houses are of brick, and the population exceeds three thousand, including a large foreign element of Italians, Basques and French. The plaza is very handsome, with a pyramid in the centre, fifty feet high, on one side, and a church not yet finished, of grand dimensions, the cost being estimated at \$150,000 s., contributed by local subscription. The chief authority is a Gefe Politico, and there is also a Judge of 1.^a Instancia; There are two priests, and seven doctors: Dr. Newkirk, a Canadian, is in good practice. There are national free schools for both sexes. Most of

the inhabitants are rich *estancieros*. A public conveyance is hired out, for any part the traveller may wish to repair to. The country is thickly wooded in some parts, orange groves being numerous. There are two English carpenters in Goya; one of them is called Don Pedro, and is one of the oldest inhabitants. There is a Mr. Ramallon, native of Gibraltar. Both of the priests are Italians. The Basques have brick-kilns in the suburbs; and many of the houses are two stories high. The streets are twenty yards wide. The police office is a handsome building. The public cemetery, about a mile distant, is well kept, with some fine monuments, and a handsome chapel. Such is the general prosperity of this industrious town that the citizens of Corrientes jestingly term it «The little Buenos Ayres.» The principal trade of the place consists in hides, wool, cheese, and oranges. Orange groves are frequent, but the business is diminishing, while the excellent cheese is finding its way to the various ports «aguas abajo,» a large quantity being sent to Buenos Ayres. Cotton would grow well here, the climate being warm and dry. Imports are received from Buenos Ayres.

After a couple of leagues we pass a very picturesque locality, known as Rincon de Soto. Here is a large *saladero*, surrounded by a number of huts, and a fine bay admits vessels of some burthen to come close to the establishment. It was built by Mr. Holterhoff, who bought the site from Government for \$150. There is another *saladero* at work near Goya, belonging to a Mr. Otto. Not far inwards, about two leagues from Goya, is the ancient village of Santa Lucia, on a river of the same name: it was founded by the Jesuits, who built a stone church (the finest in the province) where the few neighbors still attend Divine service. A little further on is the ground marked out for a new town, Pueblo Lavallo, but as yet there is only a solitary house with an orange grove.

We now coast along the mainland of Corrientes, which presents an elevation of perhaps 100 feet. The camps gradually become bare, and the familiar ombú, in lonely grandeur, stands forth, the landmark of the Pampas. We pass the «embouchures» of several rivulets with Indian names, none of which are navigable, although wide as European rivers, with luxuriant vegetation overshadowing their banks. Next comes the estancia of General Ferre, a tract of several leagues, which was granted to him many years ago on condition of planting it with coffee: he tried and failed, and then turned it into a cattle farm.

The red sandstone bluff now ahead of us is a place called Las Cuevas, where the river at low tide is hardly a hundred yards wide. The Paraguayans erected a battery here in 1865, which inflicted serious injury on

the Brazilian ironclads in forcing the pass. Here, in the year 1825, before the neighboring town of Bella Vista was formed, lived in utter solitude a Portuguese estanciero named Cueva, whose cattle tempted the rapacity of the Chaco Indians. A band of these deadly savages, on two occasions, swam across the narrow pass and attacked his house. The fearless old man and his son gave the Indians a galling reception from a skylight and window, through which they fired as fast as the daughters could load the blunderbusses, and thus succeeded in driving them off. During forty-three years they have never ventured another foray: the house and olive grove are distinctly seen from the river, crowning a headland, on doubling which we have Bella Vista in the distance. And well does Bella Vista merit its name, for the next hour's sail is one of the most delightful that can be imagined. A chain of steep cliffs, cut by the torrent, is broken at short and regular distances by numberless fissures caused by the rains. Yonder is the orange grove of Mr. Henry Hall, with its dark green outline against the horizon, and, as we approach, the files of trees are clearly discernible.

Bella Vista, seated on a gentle slope, in the midst of tropical foliage, is a most charming picture. It was first peopled by a settlement of convicts, sent hither under General Ferre in 1826. It now contains about 1,000 inhabitants, having some azotea houses, a plaza, &c. Nestling in orange groves and palm trees are several small huts, thrown as if by chance on the hill-side, and commanding a grand view of the Paraná and Gran Chaco. The natives may not have inherited the propensities of their forefathers, but, certes, they are wild-looking fellows. Bella Vista is eighteen leagues above Goya. We see, a little above the town, the scene of an attempted cotton plantation, started here by some enterprising Americans in 1853. Whether owing to a bad selection of soil, or mismanagement on the part of the mayordomo, the undertaking failed and was abandoned. A native family now resides there, who pulled up all the cotton to substitute oranges. We have to return two leagues to get the channel, and glide by the Gran Chaco. Now again islands, on which we can see carpinchos. We are now 800 miles from Buenos Ayres, in the heart of South American wilds. The river is still a majestic flood, two miles wide.

Passing Empedrado, which is half-way between Bella Vista and Corrientes, we reach the mouth of the Riachuelo, famous for the great naval battle fought here on 11th June, 1865, between the fleets of Paraguay and Brazil. The former was much less than the latter in ships and weight of metal, but was aided by a shore battery of forty guns. The struggle lasted from daybreak till nightfall, and ended in the utter defeat of the

Paraguayans, who, however, displayed great bravery: over 2,000 men perished in the battle, the Paraguayans losing four steamers and the Brazilians having three vessels *hors de combat*. The vicinity of the Riachuelo is said to produce good tobacco; and now we come abreast of Don Domingo Latorre's famous quinta, with its 5,000 orange trees, and picturesque «montes» of cypress, poplar, &c. This is distant from the capital five leagues by land, but the windings of the river make it seven. Nearer to Corrientes is the quinta of the late ex-President Derqui, finely situated on the river bank. At this place the Chaco looms in the distance, with its dark fringe of impenetrable forests. Very little of Corrientes can be seen before landing, or passing «aguas arriba.»

Corrientes covers a plateau elevated sixty feet over the water level, so that we can see little but the church-towers and the few irregular edifices situate on the slope. On the extreme right is a graceful country-house, belonging to Dr. Vidal: a large shrubbery leads up to the door, and a corridor all around the house has an effect of comfort and elegance. The line of beach is studded with dusky washerwomen, perfectly regardless of the fact that the thermometer stands over ninety in the shade. There are scattered fragments of a dark stone, said to be very good for building, though not much used; it looks like toseca, but is hard as granite. Beyond Vidal's quinta is a saladero, the present owner of which is a Correntino. A tanning establishment and timber yard form the centre of our picture, with the Custom-house, Casa de Gobierno, several palm ranchos, and a sprinkling of orange trees to fill up the whole, giving a strange and not unpleasant aspect. Most of the houses have corridors, which cover in the whole footpath, the windows being barred as in Buenos Ayres. No block can be called complete, for palm ranchos and orange gardens alternate with tile roofs and azoteas. The streets are about fifty feet wide. The plaza is much the same as it was three centuries ago: on the north side is the Matriz or principal church, an old edifice eighty yards long, with a tile roof, and at a short distance a bell tower, seventy feet high, in which is the town clock. The west side contains the Cabildo, where the law courts and prison are guarded by a bare-footed picquet of Federal troops of the Line. In front are two antique houses, one of two stories, and the Merced Church, not yet whitewashed, with two belfrys, and a cloister attached for Franciscan friars. The house of Señor Pampin, ex-Governor, with a few others of less note, make up the south side, and a column some sixty feet high stands in the centre of a multitude of weeds, around which are wooden posts but no seats: the column is surmounted by a diminutive female armed with a lance, and bears the inscriptions, 25 de Mayo 1810, and 9 de Julio 1816.

On the pedestal are the busts of four generals. The Cabildo is a handsome structure, two stories with arches, supporting a square tower of Moorish build, which commands a view of the country around. At the Hotel Globo we can procure a clean, airy apartment wherein to take «siesta.» The windows are of stained glass, with Venetian blinds. The *cuisine* is faultless for those who are not squeamish about garlic. The city forms a parallelogram of sixty or seventy cuadras, but is wholly different from anything European. There are about 1,500 palm ranchos, 200 tile roofs, and 100 azoteas of one or two stories; also, four steeples, three miradores, six flag-staffs, a few slender palms, and an infinity of orange trees, amid which the houses seem to nestle for protection from the sun. Corrientes is distant 270 leagues, or 900 English miles, from Buenos Ayres.

On leaving Corrientes we can distinctly count the seven currents, which give the city its name; they are formed by as many projecting points of land, above a place called La Bateria, a little north of the town. We now approach the Tres Bocas, the confluence of the rivers Paraguay and Upper Paraná. The scenery about here is very fine. The Paraná turns off at a right angle, eastward, and is navigable for steamers as high as the island and falls of Apipé. At the Paso la Patria is a ferry for carrying over cattle into Paraguay, and the woods on the Corrientes shore were the scene of some hard fighting in January 1866. Nearly opposite stood the Paraguayan fort of Itapiru, which formerly commanded the navigation of these waters: it was destroyed by the Brazilians in April 1866. Higher up on the Corrientes bank are the villages of San Cosmo, Itati, San Antonio, and Loreto; near this last is a ford called Tranquera de Loreto. On the Paraguayan shore the ground is low, marshy, and uninhabited. At Itapua the river gives another bend, almost due north, and this is the point where the Paraguayans invaded Misiones, in May 1865, previous to their descent on Rio Grande. Opposite to Itapua is the Paraguayan station called Candelaria. The Paraná may still be ascended in small boats as high as the great cataract of Salto de Guayra; but this part of the country is comparatively unexplored. The ruins of a town called Ciudad Real are still seen near the falls: from this point to the Tres Bocas is a distance of about 500 miles.

Entering the Paraguay river at the Tres Bocas, we pass the Guardia Cerrito, where the Paraguayans had a battery, and in a few hours we reach Curupaity, where the Allies sustained a great reverse on the 22nd of September 1866. Every inch of ground was here disputed with immense sacrifice of life during more than two years, till the Paraguayans finally abandoned Humaytá in July 1868. A bend of the river reveals to us this formidable position, which was defended by casemated batteries, torpedoes,

and chains across the river. This place was the key to the upper rivers, and the garrison, before the war, usually numbered 12,000 men: the fortress was constructed by French engineers in 1854, under the regime of the first Lopez.

A little above Humaitá, on the Chaco side, we come to the mouth of the Rio Vermejo, which is about 300 yards wide, and bordered by a dense thicket. Some of the Chaco Indians may often be seen about here, spearing fish.

Villa Pilar is a pretty little town, with numerous orange-groves and a handsome church, about a mile from the shore. It is the chief town of a district which shewed a census-return of 160,000 inhabitants. Under the rule of Francia it was the commercial emporium of Paraguay, the city of Asuncion being shut to all foreigners.

An hour's sail takes us to the mouth of the Tebicuari, a large river which rises in the Yerbales or *máte*-fields of Misiones, and after a course of 400 miles falls into the Paraguay at this place. Just before the war President Lopez had sent to Europe for two light steamers to navigate the Tebiquary.

Villa Franca is a village of no importance: the surrounding district has only 10,000 inhabitants.

Villa Oliva is another small place, with a church and public schools: here the steamers often take beef and firewood. And now we may observe shoals of alligators on either bank: sometimes as many as a dozen basking together in the sun, a few measuring seven or eight feet in length. They lie motionless, like a log of wood, with their jaws extended shewing two alarming rows of teeth. The body is scaly like a tortoise, with four short fin-like legs, and they glide into the water with great ease. Carpinchos may be seen in close proximity, apparently on good terms with the «Yacares,» for this South American crocodile confines his tastes to fish.

Villeta is a difficult pass of the river, about seven leagues below Asuncion. At times the water is so low that no vessels drawing over eighteen inches can pass. The banks on the Paraguayan side rise as we proceed up stream, and the Paraguayans used to have a battery of a few guns commanding a bend of the river. The scenery is very diversified and tranquil, with stately palm-trees that stand forth at intervals to remind us of the tropics.

The peak of Lambaré is enchanting, with its cone-like elevation clad in luxuriant foliage, raising its lofty form to the clouds. The adjacent village

of Lambaré is a suburb to the capital, remarkable for its church and cemetery.

On the left bank is the mouth of the Pilcomayo, which rises in Bolivia, near the city of Chuquisaca, traverses the Gran Chaco, and after a course of 1,500 miles, here falls into the Paraguay.

There are two batteries at the turn before we get view of the arsenal and city of Asuncion.

Asuncion, the Paraguayan metropolis, is a town of some 30,000 inhabitants; it was founded by a Spanish captain named Ayolas, on August 15, 1536. There are some splendid public buildings, and excellent hotel accommodation is found at the Club. The shops are poor, and all imported articles very dear. The railway to Villa Rica runs through a country unsurpassed for scenery. The traveller will find many delightful rides in the environs of Asuncion, and he should take a bath before sunrise at the Chorro. A description of the city and people will be given at full in the section of this work devoted to Paraguay.

Ascending the river to Matto Grosso, the first place beyond Asuncion is Villa Occidental, on the Chaco side, where a French colony was established by Lopez, but resulted unfortunately. We next pass the towns of Rosario and San Pedro, and the mouths of the Confuso, Jejuy, and Ypape rivers, arriving at Concepcion, 180 miles from Asuncion. The depth of the river varies from twenty to seventy feet, its width being from half a mile to a mile, and the banks usually about fifteen feet high. Concepcion is a town of 2,000 inhabitants, and the great port of the yerba-maté trade.

Salvador is seventy miles above Concepcion, and has a population of 1,000 souls. From Salvador to Rio Appa is nearly 100 miles, the scenery being very beautiful near the ranges of Itapucu Guazú, and the country inhabited by warlike Indians. Here begins the disputed territory, which extends eighty miles north, as far as Rio Blanco, and is claimed by both Brazil and Paraguay on account of the important position of Fort Olympo.

Fort Olympo is 420 miles above Asuncion, standing 45 feet above the river, which is here 600 yards wide: it forms a square of 100 feet, with bastions for cannon, the walls being fourteen feet high and two and a-half thick, without embrasures. It was built by the Spaniards in 1798, garrisoned by Francia in 1822, abandoned by Lopez in 1850, again occupied in 1856, and afterwards seized in turns by Brazil and Paraguay. Before reaching Olympo is the picturesque mountain called Pan-de-azucar, and five miles above the fort is Bahia Blanca, at the mouth of the Rio Blanco.

We enter Brazilian territory at Salinas, and here the left bank is claimed by Bolivia, while the right forms part of the province of Matto Grosso.

Fort Coimbra, in Lat. 19.55.43, and Long. 57.52.32, stands on a hill of the same name, which slopes to the river: it is forty feet above the water level, and is a solid stone structure, completely commanding the river which is here 600 yards wide. The officers' quarters within the fort consist of small stone houses. All supplies are obtained from Albuquerque or the neighbouring Indians. The low lands for some distance above Coimbra are subject to inundation, but there are also some pieces of firm land, covered with excellent woods and never overflowed except in seasons of extraordinary rise. The mountains are still insulated peaks or short ranges, probably spurs of the Bolivian sierras. The surrounding country is held by the Guaycurú Indians, whom the Brazilian Government treats with much conciliation. Coimbra is thirty-three miles above Fort Olympe.

Albuquerque is an insignificant village of seventy houses, only useful for supplies of provisions, and 47 miles from Coimbra. Passing the mouth of the Tacuari we reach Corumbá, sixty miles from Albuquerque, and 560 from Asuncion. This place sprung into importance with the introduction of steam traffic: it produces some good cotton.

From Curumbá to Cuyabá is nearly 400 miles, the course changing in Lat. 18, Long. 57.30, from the upper Paraguay to the river Cuyabá. The city of Cuyabá is capital of the province of Matto Grosso, residence of the President, Bishop, and other Brazilian functionaries, and a place of much importance. This is the highest point navigable in a steamer. Captain Bossi, in 1862, attempted to cross over to the head-waters of the Amazonas, but failed. The distance overland to Rio Janeyro is 1200 miles, practicable on mules in about sixty days, but much infested by Indians, passing through a country of woods and mountains. The early Spaniards are known to have made the journey. A Brazilian expeditionary force left Rio Janeyro in 1865; most of the men perished on the route, the rest deserted to the woods.

UP THE URUGUAY.

The scenery of the Uruguay is the finest in these countries, and there is almost daily communication between Buenos Ayres and Salto: the steamers are elegant and commodious, and make the trip in 36 hours.

As we cross the La Plata to ascend the Uruguay, the fine estancias of Martin Chico and San Juan are pointed out to the traveller; they are beautifully situated, and must some day become immensely valuable. Passing the Cerro San Juan we sight the island of Martin Garcia, the Gibraltar of the River Plate, which has anything but an imposing appearance. Two new fortifications are seen on the S. E. point, but there

are no guns on them. Facing the Argentine coast is a battery of nine guns, with soldiers' quarters. The place almost looks deserted, and the old batteries used in the war of 1859 are dismantled. Between the island and the Oriental coast only small craft can pass. The Argentine Congress in 1867 voted a considerable sum for the fortification of the island. In the time of Rosas many of the prisoners confined here escaped by swimming a grey mare over to the mainland of Banda Oriental, the mare regularly swimming back again, till Rosas took her and shot her as an enemy to the State.

Carmelo is the first town we sight and looks very pretty, seated on a bend of the river, but a good view is not obtained till we pass upwards. A small steamer calls here in connection with Colonia or Higuieritas. The next thing we see is an old convent now used for an estancia-house.

The scenery improves as we advance, the Entre-Riano coast being much lower than the Oriental.

Nueva Palmira or Higuieritas is on the eastern bank; it is a small place, and has few attractions, except that it offers a convenient landing-place for passengers for the interior. There is a 'graseria,' for melting down sheep, belonging to Mr. Henry Zimmermann.

At the mouth of the Rio Negro the scenery is interesting: here a small steamer meets us to take the passengers for Mercedes. Higher up we meet the Guleguaychú steamer, forming another branch-line of the Uruguay service.

As we proceed up the river the nature of the last great geological changes, that have occurred in this valley, becomes apparent from the facts noticeable. The Argentine side of the river is generally low, often marshy, as if recently redeemed from a deep lake, while the Uruguayan side is generally high and rocky. Along the bold rocky border of that old, immense lake, the waters were drained, and, washing the base of the bluff on its eastern border, at length formed the River Uruguay. On the Uruguayan shore the bed of the river is generally of granitic rocks, the channel is deeper, and, from the more solid formation, the ports are better. The rocks are chiefly granite, though in some parts, as for example near Salto, the action of the fire is more marked, and quartz is seen under all the modification made upon it by heating and cooling, and by slight admixtures of other rocks. In the interior of the country, 'geodes' are found in great abundance and of great beauty of structure. In the streams and along the rocky coasts, the sand is richly interspersed with pebbles of cornelian, agate, chalcedony, onyx, and jasper, all more or less pure, and some of them of great beauty. There is, probably, but one place

where such pebbles are so abundant, or so beautiful, or so large, and that is at St. Anthony on the Mississippi river.

Fray Bentos is a new town on the same side of the river, containing about 1,000 inhabitants. It is called sixty leagues from Buenos Ayres: it is not attractive to the traveller, who only beholds it from the deck of the steamer, but is said to be a place of considerable business. It is chiefly noteworthy for the famous Liebig Extractum Carnis Factory, under the direction of Mr. Giebert, which was established in 1864, at a cost of £200,000. It gives constant employment to 600 or 800 persons, and can kill 500 head of cattle per day. The machinery was made in Glasgow, and cost £45,000: it is the most complete and elaborate that can be imagined. The beef extract is made up in boxes of 100℔ each, for shipment to Europe, where it is sold at £1 sterling per ℔ weight, chiefly for hospital use.

Roman is the name of a landing place, and also of a saladero near it, about seventy leagues from Buenos Ayres. The saladero is owned by Don Felipe Iglesias, and the town is little else than a group of irregularly built houses to accommodate the workmen.

It is usually midnight when the steamer calls at Concepcion, the chief town of Entre Rios, which we shall visit on our return down the river. By daybreak we are at anchor in the port of Paysandú.

Paysandú, eighty leagues from Buenos Ayres, contained before the civil war in that country 7,700 inhabitants. So great has been the activity of business, since the restoration of peace, that it is believed that the population now exceeds 10,000. New houses are going up in all directions, and these are of a better class than the old ranchos battered down in the bombardment. In the Department of Paysandú are five saladeros, two of these are in the city, one at Casa Blanca, one at Roman, and one at Fray Bentos. At each of these there are killed annually 40,000 to 50,000 animals, making from this department 200,000 to 250,000 animals in the year. The beef is salted and dried in thin, large slices, and it finds a market in Brazil and the West Indies. Hides are salted and go to Europe, chiefly to Antwerp and Liverpool, and the tallow goes by cargoes, in pipes, to England. There are no manufactories in Paysandú but sundry stores, and shops of shoemakers, tailors, waggon-makers, blacksmiths, &c. Hotels, La Paz and La Francia; charge, \$1½ per day. Labor is dear both for house and farm service, the poorest laborer receiving, at the lowest, \$16s. per month. And so rapid is the increase of population by immigration that all kinds of marketing are as dear as at Buenos Ayres. Don Miguel Horta, the principal shopkeeper, is Spanish vice-consul, and his house is the

rendezvous of all English estancieros. Some pleasant excursions may be made to the neighboring estancias of Col. Mundell, Plowes, Hughes, Green, and Bell, to the saladero at Arroyo Negro, to Messrs. Paris and Sloper's beef-packing establishment, to William's saladero, and by boat to the Swiss colony across the Uruguay.

From Paysandú to Salto is the finest part of the river: the scenery is varied and beautiful. A league above the town is Mr. William's saladero, where they tried «the Morgan system,» in 1866, with beef and mutton. At the Hervidero we pass a large establishment belonging to Mr. Richard Hughes, with the Union Jack flying from the battlements: it is a two-story house built over twenty years ago by a Company, of which Mr. Lafone formed part, and had a saladero, now in ruins, and an estancia with over 100,000 cows and sheep. The Mesa de Artigas is a bold headland just over the river. Here General Artigas encamped his army in the War of Independence, and tradición says he threw his Spanish prisoners hence, sewed up in hides, into the river. After passing the estancia Delicias and other valuable establishments belonging to foreigners, we reach the dangerous pass of Corralitos. This reef or archipelago of rocks has but one narrow and tortuous channel, and is impassable by night. Sailing vessels cannot pass but with the most favorable wind, and we see coasting craft at anchor in front of the old port of Concordia, which is nearly a league below that town. In high water the Corralitos are covered, but often the river is so low that the buoys are high and dry. You cannot see Concordia from here, but there is a «casilla» at the new port, and coaches are in waiting to convey passengers to the town. We have now a fine view of Salto at the head of the river, about three miles above, covering three or four hills, with large white edifices, and apparently a town of great extent.

Salto (Hotel Concordia) is 110 leagues from Buenos Ayres: it is a very flourishing place, with 9,000 inhabitants, one half of whom are Italians.

The town has a bustling aspect, new buildings going up on all sides. The view is very picturesque in every direction. The city stretches out much to the north, the new town laid out by Mr. Coleman being already thickly settled. The situation is charming, the Uruguay bathing the declivities of the 'cuchillas' which run down in almost parallel lines, the white buildings studding the hill-sides, and clumps of brushwood fringing the outskirts. It is the headquarters of all frontier traffic to Rio Grande and Corrientes, and the Brazilian Government is in treaty with a London firm for a railway to Uruguayana and San Borja. The Salto Chico is about a mile above the town, and sometimes quite dry: the Salto Grande

higher up is a barrier to navigation in almost all periods. On the east side of the Plaza is the church, an unpretending structure with two towers, one of which has a town-clock (the weights are of sand): inside, it is quite bare, and can hardly hold 800 persons. Next door is the Curia, a fine house with ornamental front. On the south side stands the Comandancia, imitation of Grecian architecture, and a few yards off is the Imprenta, from which issues, twice a week, the *Eco de los Libres*. Some of the public works are a decided failure, viz., the wharf of granite which has already cost 60,000 hard dollars, and can never be of use except in extraordinary high tides, whereas an iron mole might have been run out into the river at a cost of 40,000. A little below the town is a tan yard, and further down was the Brazilian encampment in 1865. Salto is reputed a very healthy place, the only epidemic ever known being small-pox. The water here, as in all other parts of the Uruguay, has a mellifluous taste. Mr. Richard Williams, one of the oldest British residents in the River Plate, has a handsome residence, commanding a view of the Uruguay, and Concordia on the opposite bank. He has a fine collection of pebbles and crystalizations: these stones come from the Cerro de Catalanes near the river Cuareim, where agate is found in abundance, and some collections have been sent to England, and appreciated by lapidaries. A German explorer with a number of workmen collected quite a cargo, but died when about to return to Europe. There are not many English estancias, excepting those of Mr. Williams, near Salto.

In times of very high water, a steamer (drawing three feet) goes up the falls to Uruguayana: the distance is about 150 miles, and the scenery well repays the journey.

After passing the falls we coast alternately the shores of Entre Rios and Banda Oriental, on both of which there are many large cattle estancias. Some leagues above Concordia is the Arroyo Yuqueri, where Gen. Mitre established his headquarters when the Paraguayan war first broke out. A range of hills called Puntas de Mandisobi, twelve leagues from Concordia, was subsequently Gen. Flores's rendezvous before the battle of Yatay. Not far hence is the village of Federacion, and nearly opposite, in Banda Oriental, is another, called Constitucion.

A stream debouching on our left, called the Mocoretá, is the frontier line between Entre Rios and Corrientes; and ten leagues higher, on the right, we come to Santa Rosa, at the frontier of the Brazilian province of Rio Grande: this place is thirty leagues above Salto, and has vis-a-vis the Correntino village of Monte-Caseros.

Twenty leagues further is the important town of Uruguayana, at a pass

of the river, called Paso de los Libres. A line of diligences formerly ran from this place to Concordia, and another on the Brazilian side, from Uruguayana to Salto. At present railways are projected, one on each side of the river, as the falls at Salto are a bar to all commerce by water.

Uruguayana was founded in 1843, and was a thriving frontier town previous to the war; it had about 10,000 inhabitants: it was the centre of the trade of this part of Rio Grande. In 1865 the Paraguayans took it and held it for some time, till the allied generals closely invested the place, and the Paraguayan commander surrendered to Dom Pedro in person. The town was found to be in a dreadful condition; but it is now fast recovering its prosperity. The Uruguay is here half-a-mile across.

Twenty leagues higher up is the Correntino village of La Cruz, and two leagues further, on the Brazilian shore, stands the town of Itaquí, which was also taken by the Paraguayans in their descent on Rio Grande. A battle occurred near a rapid river above the town, in which the Brazilians were worsted, obliging them to abandon Itaquí.

Twenty-five leagues further on, are the towns of Santo Tomé and San Borja. The former is in Lat. 28.20, and Long. 58.10.: it is the chief town of the Misiones of Aguapey (Corrientes). Exactly opposite is San Borja (Rio Grande): the country around is rich and populous. The distance across Misiones, to Itapúa on the Upper Paraná, is 38 leagues.

We have now ascended 100 leagues from Salto, and the traveller may still continue his explorations in Misiones. The return voyage from San Borja to Salto will occupy a day and a-half.

If we cross the Uruguay river below the falls from the eastern to the western side, we shall find Concordia, an Argentine city of the province of Entre Ríos, and nearly opposite Salto. The present war, during the months when Concordia was the headquarters of the army, added greatly to the business and wealth of the city. There is at Concordia one *saladero* which uses about 50,000 animals in the 'faena' (cattle and horses). This is the property of A. Benites and Co.: the city counts about 5,000 inhabitants, and is a place of considerable business. Rents and wages are high, and good houses are not easily found to rent.

Colonia de San José, twenty-four leagues below Concordia, is a colony of Swiss and German immigrants, numbering about 2,500 persons. The town itself is only the few houses needed at the landing, for the people are agriculturists, raising wheat, maize, potatoes, &c.

Concepción del Uruguay, nine leagues lower down the river, is at present the capital of the province of Entre Ríos. The anchorage of steamers is near the shore, but the landing is so far away from the city as

to leave but little opportunity to see the town from the steamer. There are said to be 5,000 inhabitants. The princely residence of General Urquiza is seven leagues distant, at San José. At Concepcion are two saladeros, but there are no manufactories.

The possessions of General Urquiza are immense. One-third part of the land of the province is called his. From the River Guauguaychú to Victoria, eighty leagues, you may not go off the lands of the Captain General. The annual product from so much land, stocked with cattle, horses, and sheep, must be very great.

THE SALADO AND VERMEJO.

These two rivers belong to the Gran Chaco territory, and are generally considered navigable, although many obstacles have been met with in the expeditions sent for their exploration.

The Rio Salado rises in the upper provinces, passes through Santiago del Estero, and falls into the Paraná just above Santa Fé city. A Spanish gentleman named Esteban Rams Rupert devoted many years and a large amount of money to the scheme of canalising this river. His first expedition was at the close of 1862, and he narrates it in these words—

«We left the Colony of Esperanza on the 31st December, in the direction of Concepcion del Tio, in the Province of Cordova: from this point we followed the road called De las Tropas, due north, until arriving at the town of Salavina, in Santiago. Then, striking out east, we reached Fort Bracho, on the banks of the Salado, on the 19th January. The engineer at once began his survey of the river, from Navicha to the Boca de Matará, which, along with the marshes, covers a superficies fifteen leagues in length by three or four in breadth. This is the only part of the river requiring heavy works to make the navigation clear, to Sepulturas. The engineer's reports, confirming and amplifying previous ones, are already nearly complete. The annual rise this time came as high as the Boca de Matará, on the night of the 30th December, and when I arrived at Matará, on the 23rd January, I found the river in front of this place fifteen feet deep for a width of eighty-two feet. I left a meter there, in charge of the commander, and on my return on the 4th of February found that the water had, in the interval, suffered a maximum rise of four inches, and fall of four and a-half inches, making thus a difference of half an inch in twelve days, and its actual depth being fifteen feet and nine inches. This shows there is plenty of water to navigate the Salado, the sole difficulty being to run a canal from Boca de Matará to Navicha, a distance of fifteen leagues, as there is not the least obstacle between Navicha and Santa Fé. The

levels taken prove the possibility, nay, the facility, of avoiding the marshes, and conveying the whole current down to Navicha.»

Baron Mauá provided funds, pending the formation of a company in England, and Mr. W. H. Cock began the works in 1863. The Baron, however, found it impossible to get up the company, owing to the Flores revolution of April 1864, and, after a year (December 1864), Mr. Cock received orders to suspend operations: his report on the works is as follows:—

«The Cauce Viejo (old bed), whose course was hardly known before my arrival here, owing to its frequent windings through impenetrable thickets, is now quite cleared of trees from Bracho Viejo (La Fragua) as far as two leagues beyond Navicha, a distance of fifteen leagues, now rendered quite navigable, all the old roots and trees being completely removed. The rest only requires a few workmen, for a couple of months, to render it fit for navigation, by burning the trunks and boughs felled on the banks, which are now so dry as easily to ignite. Beyond Navicha (except two leagues, which I have already said are clear) there is little wanting to be done, and with the staff of navvies under my orders I could have finished it by the end of February—so that the Rio Salado would have possessed a continuous canal free from all obstacles, and requiring no further works, to permit the passage of a small steamer as high up as Bracho Viejo. A little canal, eighteen feet wide (six and a-half varas) has also been opened from the Lagunas del Bracho to the bed of the river, with the view of giving the river an additional flow of water, and draining the marshes so as to be enabled to commence the canalization works across the Estero del Bracho some months earlier than usual. During my stay in this place I have devoted all my attention to a careful study of the various projects feasible for making a canal through the Estero del Bracho to the Boca de Matará: my assistant Mr. Charles Albeck has also been busy in taking levels and drawing plans for the same purpose. I now possess all the necessary *data* for this important section of the works, so as on finishing the plans, to be able to point out the best and most economical route for the canal.»

But Mr. Rams never despaired: he contrived to carry on the work in a small way, and in July 1865 he obtained from Congress a renewal of his concession, for three years longer, to date from December 31, 1866. The Government was to establish a port at any suitable point between Navicha and Bracho, guaranteeing Rams nine per cent. on the outlay of the enterprise, and allowing him an exemption from half-export duties during thirty years.

In March 1866 he obtained a concession from the Santa Fé Government,

for the introduction of 5,000 immigrant families to be settled along the Rio Salado; the Government giving him a square league of land for every four families.

Mr. Rams had some iron lighters built by Marshal of Barracas, and was almost ready to start for the Salado, when he was cut off by cholera, in April 1867. The enterprise, however, was not suffered to fall through, but in the following month Mr. Señorans started from Buenos Ayres.

After a voyage of three months and a-half he returned to Santa Fé with his expedition, having nothing to lament except the death of a young man named Piran. The expedition reached a point some hundred and eighty miles above Monte Aguara, at which latter place the River Salado takes a great bend to the west, just before entering into the province of Santiagodel Estero. Mr. Señorans thus examined and went over that part of the river which Captain Page was unable to explore, owing to his steamer drawing too much water. The river, during the whole time occupied by the expedition, was pretty high—sixteen feet of water often being found, so that the theory of the navigation of the Salado by small steamers towing «chatas» was thus fully established, and even if this navigation be only practicable during six or seven months of the year, it is still of the very greatest importance, as it will facilitate the settlement of the lands on either side of the river. Mr. Señorans was successful in gaining the good will of the various tribes of Indians on his route. All the caciques of the river came to visit him, and he made treaties with many of them. The principal cacique, Mariano, was not seen, as he lives a considerable way in the interior, but about a dozen other chiefs presented themselves, accompanied by a vast number of their people. It appears that about Monte Aguara the Indian tribes are much more numerous than it has generally been supposed. Mr. Señorans took with him a large quantity of presents, and distributed them very liberally—clothes being given to almost all. They were very much afflicted to hear that their old friend and ‘padrino,’ Mr. Rams, was dead. They all asked for his portrait, and brought up children by the score, whom they stated Mr. Rams was god-father to. A good trade can be made with these various tribes of Indians, and it is probable many of them could be made useful in cutting timber.

The expedition reached Fortin Taboada without any difficulty, and might have proceeded further on, but much time had already been expended, and provisions were running short, as they had not calculated on the necessity of furnishing food to the large numbers of Indians who continually accompanied the expedition. The reason of this equivocal guard of honor was probably two-fold—first, curiosity and greed, and secondly,

suspicion of the whites and of their objects. They could not understand why all the people of the steamers invariably attended divine service fully armed. They said that the Padres never did it. There was evidently anything but good will at first, but it appears that Mr. Señorans at last insinuated himself into their confidence, and gained their friendship.

Although plenty of water was always found, the sharp turns of the river impeded the navigation to a large extent. Then the delays of cutting wood, and the conferences with the Indians, caused a vast time to be lost. Once thoroughly established, the navigation, with wood ready cut at stated points, the steamers can run up to Fortin Taboada in six or seven days.

It is stated that the timber on the river is very abundant, and of a valuable quality. The «chatas» returned loaded with various kinds, amongst which are specimens of excellent ebony. Two young Englishmen who accompanied the expedition returned well and hearty.

Mr. Señorans encountered in one place a number of dead men. He buried them decently. It was supposed that they belonged to the Salta contingent that mutinied in the Paraná and fled into the Chaco. As nothing was ever heard of them it is probable they all perished either by hunger or by the Indians.

Since the return of this expedition (September 1867) no other has gone up the Salado, and it may be presumed that no efforts for its further navigation will be made till the termination of the Paraguayan war.

The Rio Vermejo rises in Bolivia, and, after a tortuous course of 1,200 miles through the forests of the Chaco, falls into the River Paraguay near the fortress of Humaytá. The first expedition to navigate its waters was in 1826, when some Englishmen and Buenos Ayreans successfully descended the river: they were, however, taken prisoners by Francia, tyrant of Paraguay, and kept in captivity for many years. In 1856, José Maria Arce, a Bolivian, accompanied by an Irish sailor named William Martin, safely descended from Oran to Corrientes. Señor Arce made four voyages afterwards, the last in November 1863, on this occasion losing two men, killed by Indians. He brought 150 tons cargo and 10 passengers, including his brother, Dr. Arce (with two secretaries), who had credentials from the Bolivian Government as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine and Paraguayan cabinets: his principal business being to make treaties for the navigation of the Pilcomayo. President Lopez would not make any treaty on the subject, as he declared the Vermejo and Pilcomayo belonged exclusively to Paraguay. Arce, in his last voyage, found the Vermejo nowhere less than five feet deep, his vessels drawing only twenty-seven inches; but in many places the boughs of trees obstructed the navigation.

In February 1863, Lavarello's expedition started from Buenos Ayres, on board the steamer *Gran Chaco*. After some delays to repair she at last entered the River Vermejo on April 18th. One of the party writes as follows :—

«Our progress was very slow, for several reasons. We were obliged to stop rather more than half the time for the purpose of cutting and loading wood for fuel. The course of the river changes five or six times every league, so that Captain Lavarello reckons one thousand bends from Esquina Grande to the mouth of the Vermejo. Owing to this tortuous course, and the danger of missing the channel at night, added to the strong currents of the river, and the small power of the engine, we could only navigate by daylight, and came to anchor early every evening. We were soon delayed several days by heavy rains, preventing the crew from cutting wood, and causing nearly all on board, officers and men, to fall sick of a tercian fever or 'chucho,' induced by moisture and exposure. The steamer was converted into a hospital, and from lack of medical knowledge many suffered severely and for several weeks. Of thirty persons on board, more than twenty were sick at once, and we were detained more than twenty days from lack of hands to man the vessel. At last our provisions became exhausted, one article after another, so that we should actually have suffered from hunger, had we not succeeded occasionally in obtaining a sheep, a kid, or a pair of chickens, from the Indians. The Indians also rendered us most essential services by assisting us to cut and load wood, and by hauling us loose, with ropes, when we occasionally became stuck upon sand banks. We saw great numbers of Indians, thirty or forty different bands, in number ranging from ten or twenty up to one hundred.»

At last they reached Rivadavia colony in July, and the expedition returned to Buenos Ayres early in 1864. Just then President Lopez sent to Europe for two small steamers, to navigate the Vermejo and Pilcomayo, but the war soon after ensuing the enterprise was prevented.

At present (November 1868), there is a petition before Congress from Messrs. Lezica and Lanuz, in connection with the Vermejo, which they propose to open to navigation as soon as the war terminates.

CHAP. VIII

ITINERARIES OF THE REPUBLIC.

THE highways of the Argentine Republic are pretty much as Nature made them, consisting merely of a beaten track across the Pampas. They were formerly much better as regards post-houses and relays of horses than at present. General Urquiza devoted much attention to this matter; but since the Paraguayan war the Indians have made such frequent incursions that the overland route from Rosario to Chile, or the upper provinces, is attended with much inconvenience, for want of horses at the post-houses along the roads.

In the Province of Buenos Ayres the Northern, Western, and Southern railways offer speedy and commodious transit, in connection with «diligences» ramifying the campaña in all directions. In Entre Rios there is also easy communication by the river steamboats, and a regular line of «diligences.» In Corrientes there is no other way of travelling in the interior but on horseback.

The Central Argentine Railway, from Rosario to Villa Nueva, is the great highway to the upper provinces. At Villa Nueva two main routes strike out north and west; the first goes to Cordoba, Santiago, Tucuman, and Salta; the second to San Luis, Mendoza, and San Juan. The railway from Rosario to Cordoba will be 247 miles long when finished: at present the section open to traffic, to Villa Nueva, is about 170 miles. The first thirty-three miles from Rosario are slightly undulating and destitute of timber, till we approach the English settlement of Frayle Muerto, when the country assumes a wooded aspect, with picturesque park vistas and an abundance of algarroba and other fine trees. The line crosses two rivers; the Carcarañá, about ten leagues from Rosario, and the Tercero, about twenty-three leagues further. (This route will be described at length in the chapter on the Central Argentine Railway).

NORTHERN ROUTE.

The «diligences» from Villa Nueva to Salta traverse a route of 215 leagues, the number of days employed varying, according to the weather, the state of the roads, post-houses, horses, &c. The itinerary is as follows, in Spanish leagues:—

Villa Nueva,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Machani,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tio Pugio,	4	Alpajuja,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chañares,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mano Gasla,	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Espinillo,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cardoso,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Desgraciado,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Santiago,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Uncativo,	5	Bella Vista,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mendez,	3	Tipiro,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Moyano,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chauchillo,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rio Segundo,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Sotelitos,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Geromito,	3	Pozuelos,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cordoba,	4	Bagual,	2
Bajo del Rosario,	3	Tres Pozos,	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Guerra,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Favorina,	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Salitre,	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tucuman,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tala,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Chañar,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Divisadero,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ramada,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Qutiquan,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Puesto,	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Santa Cruz,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Borriaco,	3
San Pedro,	4	Chileu,	3
Carril,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Laguna de los Robles,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Piedritas,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Ojos de Agua,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pozo del Tigre,	4	Cañas,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Portezuela,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Madriaga,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Horquetas,	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Mojaras,	4
Aquila,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Santas,	3
Guardia,	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Conchas,	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Puesto del Monte,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Piedras,	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chilue,	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	Pasaje,	8
Lago Chaquin Nodri,	2	Simbolar,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Altamique,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ramada,	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cañada,	3		
Loreto,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Salta,	215

From Villa Nueva to Cordoba is about seventy-eight miles, through dense forests of «algarroba.» At Chañares there are excellent springs of water,

and a mile further on we reach the magnificent lake of El Aguada. About two miles from here are the well-known springs of Ojo de Agua. For several leagues the lands are now very inferior, owing to the abundance of «biscachos,» which have burrowed about in all directions. The Rio Segundo is a river 250 yards wide, from one «barranca» to the other; but in dry seasons the stream is only thirty yards across. Two horses and twelve bullocks are often used to drag the «diligence» through the river. After passing through another «algarroba» wood, we at last reach the city of Cordoba.

Cordoba is the heart of the Republic; it is famous for its delightful climate, and is situate in the midst of an amphitheatre of hills. The population is estimated at 20,000; the best inn is the Hotel de Paris. The traveller will find much to interest him in the old churches, the university, and other public buildings. If he make an excursion to the Sierras he will find capital shooting.

From Cordoba the route offers little of interest, till we reach Santiago: it passes through the villages of Chañar, Altamisque, and Loreto, skirting the desert of Salinas: the only rivers met with are, the Rio Primero after leaving Cordoba, and the Rio Dulce before arriving at Santiago.

Santiago del Estero is a delapidated town of 8,000 inhabitants, with a privileged climate: it stands in lat. 27.46, and long. 64.22. The Government-house and three churches are worth visiting. This town is ninety leagues north of Cordoba.

From Santiago to Tucuman is twenty-eight leagues, the route crossing the Rio Dulce. Nothing can exceed the fertility of the Province of Tucuman, the garden of South America, rich in every product of the tropical or temperate zones.

The city of Tucuman stands on a well-wooded plain, 358 leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, with a population of 12,000 souls: it is situate on a branch of the Rio Dulce, and is famous for the declaration of Independence, 9th July, 1816.

From Tucuman to Salta is sixty-nine leagues, through a diversified country of hill ranges and rivers, for we are now in the region of the Andes. This was formerly the highway from Buenos Ayres to Lima. The town of Salta was founded in 1582, and its present population is about 10,000.

The traveller may still go twenty leagues further north, to Jujuy, which is the last Argentine province, and borders on Bolivia. The town is insignificant; but some salt is produced from the neighboring «salinas,» and the discovery of petroleum seems to be an acknowledged fact. The navigation of the Vermejo will open up the resources of this remote province.

WESTERN ROUTE.

The Western route goes due west from Villa Nueva to Mendoza, then strikes off due north, skirting the foot of the Andes, to San Juan. The itinerary is as follows:—

Villa Nueva,	3	Cerrillos,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cabral,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	San Luis,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cañada de Luque,	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Tisera,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Totoral,	4	Chosmes,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Guanacho,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cabra,	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tambito,	6	Villa de la Paz,	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chucull,	4	Dormida,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rio Cuarto,	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Santa Rosa,	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ojos de Agua,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Retamo,	9
Barranquita,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mendoza,	6
Achiras,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Jujuli,	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portezuelo,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Guanacache,	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Morro,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Posito,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lorro,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Rio Quinto,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	San Juan,	149

From Villa Nueva to Rio Cuarto is twenty-seven leagues, and now we enter on a territory very much exposed to Indian forays; the road from Rio Cuarto traversing a wild and desolate tract of forty leagues, till reaching the town of San Luis.

San Luis has almost disappeared from the map, partly owing to its constant civil wars, and partly to the Indians. The whole province has only a handful of inhabitants; the city of San Luis is mostly composed of mud huts. It has its governor, legislature, &c.

From San Luis to Mendoza is 50 leagues, still through the desert. The road crosses the Desaguadero, before reaching the village of La Paz, and at last reaches Mendoza, at the base of the giant Cordillera.

Mendoza was destroyed by earthquake, March 20th, 1861, but is now partially rebuilt. Its chief importance arises from its passes over the Andes into Chile, and its communication with San Juan and Rosario.

The journey from Mendoza across the Cordillera of the Andes, to Santa Rosa, the first town met with on the Chilian side, can be done in four to six days mounted on a good mule, which may be hired from \$8 to \$10. In summer it is a most pleasant journey, and to those who have not seen the Cordillera scenery in all its grandeur it must prove a very interesting trip, but the traveller must not attempt it between the 1st of May and 1st

of November following, as the pass «La Cumbre» is generally closed and the entire road covered with snow to a depth of several yards. The «temporales» are most frequent in that season, and come down with terrific force.

There is a weekly coach to San Juan, fare \$13; the distance is 32 leagues, through a very wild and mountainous country. A gentleman who recently made the trip from Rosario to San Juan gives the following notes of his journey:—

«The distance from Rosario to San Juan is computed about 280 leagues, the towns through which the coach passes being as follows:—

	Leagues.	Days.		Leagues.	Days.
Guardia Esquina,	24	1	San Luis,	25	1
Saladillo,	16		Mendoza,	75	3
Frayle Muerto,	10	1	San Juan,	48	2
Rio Cuarto,	50	2			
Achiras,	19	1	Total,	280	12
Morro,	13	1			

«From Rosario to Rio Cuarto the country is mostly level, the camps good and abounding in pasture termed 'pasto fuerte.' Between Saladillo and Rio Cuarto timber is very plentiful. Passing the last-named place the surface becomes broken and the views on all sides mountainous. In succession we skirt along the Sierras de Cordoba, Morro, and San Luis. Nothing can be more picturesque than the situation of Achiras, Morro, and San Luis, but the constant fear of the Indians effectually prevents any improvement in these towns. The river separating the provinces of San Luis and Mendoza is called Desaguadero, and there is a village of the same name. The road from San Luis thither is remarkable, traversing in its whole length large forests of algarroba, quebracho and other species of timber, all hard wood. It is as straight as an arrow for twenty leagues of its length, and is forty yards wide. It is without exception the finest road in the Republic, and if a little care were bestowed on it, would be at once a wonder and a model. From Desaguadero to Mendoza is fifty-five leagues. Here the aspect of the country is different from anything yet seen, the land on all sides being cultivated. The road is lined on either side by poplars, far as the eye can reach, and the cultivation being by means of artificial water drains well distributed, the surrounding vegetation is quite astonishing, and only comparable to that of the islands of the Paraná. The extent of land under agriculture in Mendoza is found to exceed 60,000 cuadradas (200,000 acres) chiefly occupied by alfalfa, vines, and cereals. The principal industry

consists in fattening cattle for the Chilian markets: they enclose the animals in a field of alfalfa, which when eaten down, they turn them into another. What appears almost incredible, though true, is that an alfalfa field once sown, requires no further labor than irrigation, and will yield abundant crops of pasture for forty years or more. The amount cultivated in San Juan is 35,000 cuadras (120,000 acres) sown, as in Mendoza, for the most part with alfalfa, vines, and cereals, and here also the chief business is fattening cattle for Chile. The mountains on all sides abound in minerals: lead, silver, copper, and gold. There are also three coal mines in Huerta, Pié de Palo, and Jachal, which have not yet been worked, but are proved to contain rich and plentiful deposits: the abundance of timber has almost rendered the consumption of coal unnecessary. The city of San Juan is well built and presents a pleasing aspect. Many of its streets are well paved, and each house has its own supply of water by means of a canal communicating with the Rio San Juan. The outskirts are charming, the city being surrounded by small mountain chains descending from the great Andes.»

From San Juan the traveller may make excursions to the silver mines of Marayes and Hilario; or continue his course further north to Rioja and Catamarca.

Rioja is about forty leagues from San Juan. The province has been made a howling wilderness by the incessant civil wars; it contains much mineral wealth undeveloped. The town of Rioja is at the foot of the Andes.

Catamarca is about forty leagues beyond Rioja: the province is rich in mineral and agricultural products. Messrs. Lafone and Carranza are the chief miners. There is a good business in fattening cattle for Chile. Tobacco, wine, and fruits are raised in great quantities.

In 1864 the Congress authorized an emission of eight per cent Bonds for the construction of roads and bridges through the Republic. The eminent firm of Docwra, Wells, and Dawson, of London had made proposals, but subsequently declined to take the Bonds for security. Nevertheless some roads were commenced by Government, the local contractors taking the bonds at fifty per cent., viz:—Concordia to Restauracion, San Luis to Cerrillos, San Luis to San Juan, San Juan to Rioja, San Juan to Tontal and Chile, Cordoba to Rioja, Cordoba to Famatina, Salta to Tucuman, Salta to Jujuy, Salta to the Rio Vermejo, Cordoba to Catamarca.

Besides these there are thirty-one roads projected, as follows;—

Jujuy—A road to Bolivia, with two or three bridges over rapid rivers. Another to unite the chief town with some port on the Rio Vermejo.

Salta—Continuation of the road to Palo Santo, and those of Jujuy and Tucuman.

Tucuman—Continuation of the great Northern route to Santiago. A new road direct to Catamarca by the Cuesta Totalal.

Catamarca—Branch to Santiago, and road to Copiapó, with houses of refuge, to ensure constant communication with Chile even in winter. The Totoral to be prolonged to Rioja, and a direct line drawn to Cordoba.

Rioja—Waggon-roads to Cordoba and San Juan; another across the Llanos to San Javier in Cordoba, for junction with the grand western route. Post-houses and fresh water must be provided along these roads.

San Juan—Roads to Rioja and Copiapó, with houses of refuge in the Cordillera. The Mendoza road to be deviated, and the Cordoba one improved.

Mendoza—The Uspallata pass to Chile to be provided with the proper number of houses of refuge for transandine travellers.

San Luis—Road to Rioja, forming junction with that of the Llanos.

Cordoba—Deviation and improvement of the great North highway to Santiago. Carriage-way across the Sierra, to meet that of the Llanos to Rioja.

Santiago—Improvement of Sunchales route, and the central road through the Gran Chaco coming out in front of Corrientes.

Santa Fé—Junction with the Santiago road, and direct road to Cordoba, with a bridge over the Carcaraña.

Corrientes—Road from Restauracion to Misiones, and from the latter district to the city of Corrientes.

Entre-Rios—Highway to Corrientes, passing through La Paz.

Buenos Ayres—One or two bridges over the Arroyo Medio en route for the province of Santa Fé. A complete postal system on the West and South frontiers.

CHAP. IX.

ENTERPRISES, PROJECTS, AND CONCESSIONS.

CONSEQUENT on the pacification of the Republic in 1861, a number of important enterprises sprung up, many of which were protected by Government guarantee and monopoly. Some have been already completed or are in train, others fell through, either owing to want of capital or to the renewal of hostilities in these countries in 1865. Others still remain as projects, waiting only a favorable occasion for realization.

The CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY, from Rosario to Cordoba, 247 miles, was first projected in 1853, under General Urquiza's administration. On the 5th September 1862, a concession was made by Congress in favor of Mr. Wheelwright, which, as subsequently amended, stood thus—

1. The cost of the line not to exceed £6,400 per mile.
2. The land necessary for the line to be given by Government; also, a grant of a league of land on each side along the line.
3. Government guarantee of 7 per cent. interest for forty years on cost of construction.
4. The line to be finished within six and a-half years.

The works were inaugurated in April 1863, and although some delay was caused by the Paraguayan war the line is now running to Villa Nueva, 170 miles, and will be finished to Cordoba in 1869. There is a project to continue the railway to Tucuman and across the Andes, for which purpose Señor Moneta, Government engineer, made surveys in June 1868.

The SOUTHERN RAILWAY, from Buenos Ayres to Chascomus, is $72\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, the concession from the Buenos Ayres Legislature to Mr. Edward Lumb bearing date 11th June 1862.

1. The cost of the line was put down at £10,000 per mile.
2. The Buenos Ayres Government guaranteed 7 per cent. for forty years on the cost.
3. If the line be prolonged to Dolores (eighty miles further south) the same guarantee will be given.
4. The railway to be exempt from all tax for forty years.

The Legislature refused to admit the cost of construction at more than £700,000, whereupon the guarantee on the additional sum of £25,000 was collectively given by the following merchants: Messrs. Thomas Armstrong, John Fair, George Drabble, Edward Lumb, Henry Harratt, Henry A. Green, Gregorio Lezama, Ambrosio P. Lezica, and Federico Elortondo. The works were commenced by Messrs. Peto & Betts on 8th March 1864, and the line was completed before the close of 1865. Last year the net profits gave 5 per cent. on the capital; but, every year the traffic is improving, and the guarantee will soon be unnecessary.

The NORTHERN RAILWAY, was begun in 1860, the concessionaire being Mr. Edward A. Hopkins, but the works were destroyed the following year by a high tide. The enterprise was continued in 1861 by Messrs. Croskey & Murray, who again inaugurated the works in February 1862. The concession stipulated:—

1. The cost of the line £150,000, for sixteen miles.
2. Government guaranteed interest seven per cent. for twenty years.

The line was opened to San Fernando on 5th February, 1864. In October of the same year the Legislature of Buenos Ayres gave a concession for prolonging the line to Zarate, with a guarantee of seven per cent. for twenty years, but limiting the cost to £7,100 per mile. This concession lapsed, as the prolongation works were to be commenced within twelve months and concluded in three years. The line was, however, prolonged two miles to the Tigre, which is used as a port for the steamboat traffic of the upper rivers.

The BOCA AND ENSENADA RAILWAY, works were begun by Mr. Wheelwright on 23rd February, 1863, and the concession granted in the following July, viz.:—

1. The Government concedes permission to William Wheelwright to construct and run for ever a railway, which shall start from the Paseo Julio, where the Northern Railway terminates, to the Boca del Riachuelo, Barracas, and Ensenada.

2. The road to Ensenada must be concluded before the 1st March, 1867, unless in view of the great importance of making a previous survey of the capabilities of that port to adapt it to the necessities of Buenos Ayrean commerce, it should be agreed on between the Government and the concessionaire, to make of this a practical experiment.

3. In case that Ensenada will admit of being made to meet the necessities of the commerce of Buenos Ayres, such as a port of loading and discharging vessels, and that the Government approves of the plans, it is agreed that the concessionaire of the railway shall take charge of the work, having first arranged with the Government.

4. The Government guarantees to the concessionaire that for the term of twenty years no other railway from the Custom-house to the Boca, Barracas, and Ensenada, whether propelled by steam or otherwise, shall be permitted.

On 8th September, 1865, the line was opened as far as Barracas, three miles; and in November of same year a surveying expedition proceeded to Ensenada to examine its condition as a port, and the difficulty offered by the bar: the report was favorable, but no further steps were taken in the matter. The line now runs to Barracas, and the bridge over the Riachuelo is being constructed, to push on the works to Ensenada.

The RIO SALADO navigation concession was given to Don Esteban Rams in 1863: the history of the enterprise has been fully explained in the chapter on the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries.

The ARTESIAN WELL of Barracas was begun by Messrs. Sordeaux & Co., on 1st June, 1859, with the object of carrying away the offal of the saladeros, the saladeristas and Government defraying the expense. After two months' labor the bore reached a depth of 96 feet, viz.: sand, 40ft.; slime and dark-blue ochre, 13ft.; tosca, 7ft.; fluid yellow and grey sand, 36ft. In December, 1861, the works were renewed, and by February, 1862, the bore reached 234 feet, having traversed a bed of marine shells. On 14th March, 1862, the water rose through the tubes and poured out in a 'jet d'eau': on July 6th the Artesian Well was inaugurated by President Mitre, and since then it has been much in use as a bath. The water is unfit to drink, but possesses saline medicinal qualities.

The ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH (Buenos Ayres to Montevideo) concession was granted on 9th June, 1864, viz.:—

1. Exclusive privilege conceded to Messrs. Proudfoot & Grey for fifteen years, from conclusion of works.

2. Permission to erect posts on highroads or elsewhere.

3. Government to protect the wires by all possible means.
4. Government messages half price.
5. In case of misunderstanding between the Republics, the Argentine Government not to stop the wires, nor to have right to inspect messages unless private correspondence be prohibited.

The cable was laid from Punta Lara to Colonia, twenty-six miles, in October 1866, and the wires opened for traffic a few weeks later.

TELEGRAPH WIRES TO CHILE.—In December 1866, Messrs. Hopkins & Cary obtained a concession to lay down wires from Buenos Ayres to Chile, as follows:—

1. The line shall be completed within two years from the date of concession.
2. The Government, on conclusion of the line, shall pay the contractor a subvention of 8 per cent. per annum for twelve years, on a cost of \$200 s. per mile.
3. The Government shall cede to the company fifty squares of public lands for every fifteen miles of telegraph.
4. If the whole of the line be not completed within the term specified in clause 2, the Government shall reduce 1 per cent. on the subvention for every four months so delayed in finishing the line.

This project lapsed, owing to the death of Mr. Street, the eminent contractor of San Francisco.

TRACTION ENGINES.—In August 1863, Messrs. Rossignol, Beare, & Puyrredon obtained a concession for traction engines throughout the Republic; the first line to be established in eighteen months, and others to Rosario, Cordoba, Tucuman, and Mendoza in three years. The construction of roads and bridges was to be at the cost of the company, whose capital was fixed at £200,000, the Government guaranteeing 7 per cent. on actual outlay. In 1864 Mr. Beare brought from England an engine called El Buey, which made an unsuccessful experiment from Barracas to town, and the project was abandoned. The soil seems too soft and light for such locomotives.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.—In September 1863, Congress passed the following law:—

1. The President is authorised to emit \$1,000,000 in shares, which shall be denominated Roads and Bridges Stock.
2. These shares shall be of \$20, \$50, \$500, and \$1,000 s., with an interest of 8 per cent., payable half yearly, and with 3 per cent. amortization.

3. These shall be only issued at par, and shall be paid out only when new enterprises shall require it.

For a list of the roads made and projected the reader is referred to Chap. vii.

SAN JUAN MINING COMPANY.—In November 1862, Governor Sarmiento of San Juan, and President Mitre, aided Major Rickard in getting up a joint-stock company, capital £22,000, for the working of silver ores at Hilario. Mr. Rickard went to England for machinery and miners, returning in 1863, and proceeding at once to build an extensive factory at Hilario. Troubles began with the shareholders in August 1864, and the works were paralysed. A new company was, however, formed in London in November 1867, and it is hoped the works will shortly be resumed.

KLAPPENBACH'S MINING WORKS, situate at La Huerta, thirty-five leagues from San Juan, were begun in September 1864, and are now completed: they can smelt 100 tons of ore daily. The result of the smelting in 1865 was—1,446 marks of pure silver; in the first eight months of 1868 it was 6,589 marks. In September 1868, Messrs. Klappenbach formed a joint-stock company of £46,000 capital, in £200 shares: some shares not subscribed for were taken up by the Argentine Government.

CARRIAGE ROAD OVER THE ANDES.—In February 1865, a project was set on foot by M. Carpentier, a French resident in Chile, to make a highway from Rio Teno in Chile to Valle Hermoso in the Argentine Republic; the road to be sixteen feet wide and practicable for carriages. M. Carpentier obtained a concession from the Chilean Government of a right of toll for twenty years. He estimated the cost at £50,000, and engaged to finish it in three years. If the project be ever carried out it will be a great gain for travellers crossing the Cordillera.

EASTERN ARGENTINE RAILWAY.—In February 1863, Minister Rawson instructed Smith, Knight, & Co., London, to prepare surveys for a line from Concordia in Entre Rios to Mercedes in Corrientes. The following concession was granted in August 1864:—

1. The cost shall not exceed £13,353.
2. The National Government guarantees 7 per cent. interest on the capital invested.
3. The line to have three sections: 1st. From Concordia to Federacion; 2nd. From Federacion to Monte-Caseros; and, 3rd. From Monte-Caseros to Mercedes.
4. The first section may be commenced at once; but the second not until

the first yields $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. net on the capital; and the third when both first and second give the same ($3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) net returns.

5. All lands necessary for the line, stations, &c., shall be ceded gratis to the company.

6. At least eighteen miles shall be open to traffic within two years, and the rest of the first section in twelve months later.

7. Government may interfere in the traffic when the dividends exceed 15 per cent.

There is every likelihood of this enterprise being revived, and the Governments of Entre Rios and Corrientes will perhaps give a land-grant along the line, similar to that of the Central Argentine.

LUXAN AND SALTO RAILWAY.—This was a project by M. Lacroze, to run a branch from the Western Railway northwards, the Government of Buenos Ayres finding the funds, to be reimbursed in part by municipal taxation in the «partidos» benefited by the line. It was judged impracticable.

PARANÁ AND NOGOYA RAILWAY.—The surveys for this line were made in October 1865 by Neville Mortimer, C. E., who estimated the cost at £321,536 sterling; or £5,024 per mile, the length being 64 miles. Nothing has since been done in the matter.

LOBOS RAILWAY.—In June 1867 several land-holders of Lobos and neighbouring partidos prevailed on Governor Alsina to order the surveys of a branch-line from the Western to Lobos. The idea of Government consisted in proposing to the Legislature of Buenos Ayres the emission of twenty millions currency (£160,000 sterling) in 6 per cent. funds, saleable at 85, with an annual sinking-fund of 1 per cent. Vice-President Paz and Dr. Acosta assured Governor Alsina that most of the said funds would be taken up in Lobos, Navarro, Saladillo &c.: they even promised to get all the land gratis, along the route. The branch-line would start from Moreno or Rodriguez station; the cost would be about £5,000 per mile, but it is difficult to suppose the funds could be provided by subscription among the estancieros.

RIO LUXAN PORT AND RAILWAY.—In October 1867, a project was started, to run a branch railway from Floresta, on the Western line, to the River Lujan. The cost was estimated at £100,000, and the projectors sought no guarantee but a monopoly for twenty years, the great object being to make a port on the Rio Lujan, for the city of Buenos Ayres, at a place where the water is said to have a depth of twelve feet.

SAN FERNANDO CANALIZATION.—The concession, bearing date 20th July, 1863, is as follows:—

1. Mr. Edward A. Hopkins is hereby authorized to form a joint-stock company for the canalization of the Arroyo Capitan, between the Parana de las Palmas and Lujan river, opposite the town of San Fernando, with a mole, warehouses, and deposit stores, suitable to the requirements of the coasting craft of the upper rivers.

2. The capital of the company shall not exceed one million five hundred thousand silver dollars.

3. The company may charge the tolls, mole, and deposit dues which it shall judge fit, for the term of twenty years, provided that the receipts do not exceed the sum of eighteen per cent nett profit on the capital.

4. The Arroyo del Capitan shall be canalized and improved: and shall have at least eighteen metres in breadth throughout the whole length at surface, and three metres in depth at mean tide.

5. The dues payable for the use of the canal shall only be recoverable in proportion to its cost, which must not exceed the sum of three hundred and seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twelve silver dollars, according to the estimates of the concessionaire.

6. At the expiration of the twenty years mentioned in article 3, the canal shall be free from all the company's dues.

7. At any time during the period of this concession the Government shall have the right of expropriating the canal works for the benefit of the public, at the value of their cost, and 25 per cent extra as indemnification.

8. The company shall have the requisite number of tug-boats for the service of the moles and canal.

9. The works shall commence within the period of eighteen months.

In 1865 Congress gave a prolongation of the concession, and Mr. Hopkins began the works in the following year. A company was formed in Buenos Ayres in 1867, since when the works go on favorably. The iron-work is ordered from England, the machinery from the United States; among the latter is a dredge capable of throwing 100 tons an hour.

PORT FOR BUENOS AYRES.—In 1859, Mr. Coghlan, C.E., prepared a complete survey, with plans, for the construction of a harbor, the estimated cost being £800,000: the plans still decorate the ante-chamber of the Provincial Legislature. In 1864 the project was taken up under another form by Señor Garay. There is now some talk of Congress devoting the extra duties hitherto used for war purposes in this more useful manner. In 1866 Mr. Petty, the pilot, submitted a project to clear the roadstead of the many wrecks and lost anchors lying about; he asked no other remuneration than the anchors, &c., to be recovered, whereupon the authorities called

for tenders to clean the port, and nothing has since been done in the matter.

HARBOR AT THE BOCA.—In July 1863, Don Manuel Lynch submitted to Congress the subjoined project, which died, like so many others, in embryo—

1. The company shall construct, at their own risk and expense, a harbor for this city.

2. The entrance to such harbor will be near Quilmes, with a depth of water fourteen feet at low tide, with a proper sluice-gate.

3. This entrance will be prolonged as far as the Riachuelo de la Boca, by means of a canal.

4. The company shall erect, at their own cost, warehouses and depots.

5. When the section shall be finished to the Riachuelo, all vessels shall be obliged to enter the canal and Riachuelo for unloading or loading.

6. The company shall recover, in such cases, on unloading, 12 reals s. per ton register, and the same for loading.

7. The company shall have one or more tug-boats to take vessels in or out of the port, the fee for which shall not exceed 4 reals s. per ton register.

8. This concession shall be for a term of thirty years, after which the Government shall enter into full possession of the canals and lighthouse.

GUNPOWDER MANUFACTORY.—In September 1865, this company was formed, with a capital of £10,000, in shares of £50 each, under the direction of Mr. Liesenberg, who had had ten years' experience in Europe. An unlucky explosion occurred in July 1867, the day before the proposed inauguration: Mr. Liesenberg was seriously injured; but the enterprise was not abandoned. The works are situate at Palermo.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH UNITED STATES.—In August 1865, Congress voted £4,000 per annum as a subsidy for a branch line of the United States and Brazilian mail service: up to the present no branch has been established.

BUENOS AYRES WATER-WORKS.—In August 1863 a proposal was sent in by Messrs. Easton, Amos, & Co., London, to provide water-works for the city. The supply was to be 30,000 pipes daily, the water being taken from above the Gas-house. The cost was estimated at £102,000, for which the Municipality would give 7 per cent. bonds. Several other projects were initiated from time to time, but the Municipality paid no attention to the wants of the city, till, in January 1868, the cholera caused such ravages Governor Alsina and the Legislature took the matter in hand.

Mr. Coghlan was authorised to construct water-works near the Recoleta, at an estimated cost of £48,000, and an engineer was despatched to England for machinery.

Mr. Coghlan states, in a report to Don Emilio Castro, dated May 15, that the original design has been considerably extended, being now calculated for the distribution of 1,300,000 gallons daily. All the machinery being provided in duplicate the quantity may be at any time extended by additional reservoirs and filters. The addition of a third engine similar to the two already contracted for, would be sufficient for increasing the supply to 2,500,000 gallons daily.

The works were inaugurated with great pomp on the 15th September, the machinery is already shipped from England, and it is expected the whole project will be carried out early in 1869. The pipes will suffice for twelve miles of ground.

DRAINAGE, WATER SUPPLY, AND PAVING.—There are several projects under consideration, some one of which will probably be carried out before long. The works undertaken by Mr. Coghlan are in a manner temporary, as they do not include drainage and paving, and the new proposals include the purchase of said works. The proposals of Robinson & Co., and Gotto & Neate, are the most important.

Thomas Robinson and Co.'s Proposals.

Drainage.—Will construct all necessary sewers, two disinfecting stations, gullies for street water, junction pipes to facilitate house drainage.

Water-works.—Will supply 2,000,000 gallons filtered water daily, constant pressure, fire-plugs at every cross street, hydrants, air valves, water tower, and cistern.

Will execute at least twelve squares (1,700 yards) of both works every two months, and complete all in four years. Will commence works immediately on signing contract.

Terms.—To be paid for 400 manzanas (blocks 425 feet square) £820,000 in Provincial Bonds bearing 7 per cent. interest, and 3 per cent. sinking fund, payable in London or Buenos Ayres at choice of contractor. For every additional manzana £1,350.

Gotto and Neate's Proposal: Capital, £1,200,000.

Sewerage.—Pipes to carry off sewage and rain water. Junctions to houses.

Water-works.—Supply of 6,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours, constant pressure.

Paving.—Of 136 squares (58,000 lineal feet) with granite blocks, in concrete.

Will maintain and work water supply and drainage for term of concession, and keep paving in repair for one year.

Terms.—Monopoly for ninety-nine years. Exemption from duties, import and export. Payment by Provincial Government of \$48 s. (£9 15s.) per annum for each house within the city. The Municipality to pay \$25,000 s. (£5,100) per annum for water for fountains, fires, and watering the streets.

EXPORT OF CATTLE.—In August 1868, Messrs. Alexander F. Baillie and P. Barry, on the part of a London company, petitioned the Argentine Government for a concession to export live stock to Europe. The capital of the company was stated at £500,000, and a fleet of seven first-class steamers would be constructed, with the double purpose of bringing out emigrants, and taking home cattle in the return voyage: the annual export of stock to be at least 5,000 head of horned cattle and 3,000 sheep. They solicited a monopoly for seven years, and a total exemption from Customs'-duties. Mr. Baillie returned to England in October, and states that he has obtained the concession prayed for, as far as regards all exportation of live stock to England and France.

NEW GAS COMPANY.—In the beginning of 1867, Mr. James Bell of Montevideo, associated with some men of influence and capital in Buenos Ayres, projected a new gas company in Buenos Ayres, in opposition to the original company established in 1856. The capital of the old company is \$18,000,000, or £144,000 sterling, and the dividends in recent years have varied from 20 to 30 per cent. per annum: the shares are still over 50 per cent. premium. The present price of gas is about £1 3s. per 1,000 cubic feet, and the proposed new company promises to make a great reduction; as yet, however, it remains merely a project, the only step taken being the submission of the statutes to the Argentine Government, which has approved of same. The term of monopoly granted to the old company has long since expired. It is intended to erect the works of the new company at the south end, in Barracas.

CHAP. X.

TREATIES OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION.

THE treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation between the Argentine Republic and Great Britain bears date 2nd February 1825, and is as follows :—

TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

Extensive commercial intercourse having been established for a series of years between the dominions of His Britannic Majesty, and the territories of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, it seems good for the security, as well as encouragement of such commercial intercourse, and for the maintenance of good understanding between His said Britannic Majesty and the said United Provinces, that the relations now subsisting between them should be regularly acknowledged and confirmed by the signature of a Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation.

For this purpose they have named their respective Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

His Majesty, the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Woodbine Parish, His said Majesty's Consul-General, in the Province of Buenos Ayres and its dependencies ; and the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, Sr. D. Manuel José Garcia, Minister Secretary for the Department of Government, Finance, and Foreign Affairs, of the National Executive Power of the said Provinces.

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective Full Powers, found to be in due and proper form, have agreed upon and concluded the following articles:—

Art. 1. There shall be perpetual amity between the dominions and subjects of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata and their inhabitants.

Art. 2. There shall be, between all the territories of His Britannic Majesty in Europe, and the territories of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, a reciprocal freedom of commerce. The inhabitants of the two countries respectively, shall have liberty freely and securely to come with their ships and cargoes to all such places, ports, and rivers in the territories aforesaid, to which other foreigners are or may be permitted to come, to enter into the same and remain and reside in any part of the said territories respectively; also to hire and occupy houses and warehouses for the purposes of their commerce; and generally the merchants and traders of each nation, respectively, shall enjoy the most complete protection and security for their commerce; subject always to the laws and statutes of the two countries respectively.

Art. 3. His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, engages further, that in all His Dominions situated out of Europe, the inhabitants of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata shall have the like liberty of commerce and navigation stipulated for in the preceding article, to the full extent in which the same is permitted at present, or shall be permitted hereafter to any other nation.

Art. 4. No higher or other duties shall be imposed on the importation into the territories of His Britannic Majesty, of any articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of the United Provinces of the Rio de la Plata, and no higher or other duties shall be imposed on the importation into the said United Provinces, of any articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of His Britannic Majesty's dominions, than are, or shall be payable on the like articles, being the growth, produce, or manufacture, of any other foreign country; nor shall any other, or higher duties or charges be imposed in the territories or dominions of either of the contracting parties, on the exportation of any articles to the territories or dominions of the other, than such as are or may be payable on the exportation of the like articles to any other foreign country: nor shall any prohibition be imposed upon the exportation of any article, the growth, produce or manufacture of His Britannic Majesty's dominions or of the said United Provinces, which shall not equally extend to all other nations.

Art. 5. No higher, or other duties or charges on account of tonnage, light, or harbour dues, pilotage, salvage in case of damage or shipwreck, or any other local charges, shall be imposed, in any of the ports of the said United Provinces, on British vessels of the burthen of above one hundred and twenty tons, than those payable in the same ports, by vessels of the said United Provinces of the same burthen; nor in the ports of any of His Britannic Majesty's territories on the vessels of the said United Provinces of above one hundred and twenty tons, than shall be payable in the same ports, on British vessels of the same burthen.

Art. 6. The same duties shall be paid on the importation into the said United Provinces of any article the growth, produce, or manufacture of His Britannic Majesty's dominions, whether such importation shall be in vessels of the said United Provinces or in British vessels; and the same duties shall be paid on the importation into the dominions of His Britannic Majesty of any article the growth, produce or manufacture of the said United Provinces, whether such importation shall be in British vessels, or in vessels of the said United Provinces. The same duties shall be paid, and the same drawbacks and bounties allowed, on the exportation of any article of the growth, produce, or manufacture of His Britannic Majesty's dominions to the said United Provinces, whether such exportation shall be in vessels of the said United Provinces, or in British vessels, and the same duties shall be paid, and the same bounties and drawbacks allowed on the exportation of any articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said United Provinces to His Britannic Majesty's dominions, whether such exportation shall be in British vessels, or in vessels of the said United Provinces.

Art. 7. In order to avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the regulations which may respectively constitute a British vessel, or a vessel of the said United Provinces, it is hereby agreed, that all vessels built in the dominions of His Britannic Majesty and owned, navigated, and registered according to the laws of Great Britain, shall be considered as British vessels; and that all vessels built in the territories of the said United Provinces, properly registered and owned by the citizens thereof, or any of them, and whereof the master and three fourths of the mariners, at least, are citizens of the said United Provinces, shall be considered as vessels of the said United Provinces.

Art. 8. All merchants, commanders of ships, and others, the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, shall have the same liberty in all the territories of

the said United Provinces, as the natives thereof, to manage their own affairs themselves, or to commit them to the management of whomsoever they please, as broker, factor, agent, or interpreter; nor shall they be obliged to employ any other persons for those purposes, nor to pay them any salary or remuneration, unless they shall choose to employ them; and absolute freedom shall be allowed, in all cases, to the buyer and seller to bargain and fix the price of any goods, wares, or merchandize imported into, or exported from, the said United Provinces, as they shall see good.

Art. 9. In what relates to the loading or unloading of ships, the safety of merchandise, goods, and effects, the disposal of property of every sort and denomination, by sale, donation, or exchange, or in any other manner whatsoever, as also the administration of justice, the subjects and citizens of the two contracting parties shall enjoy, in their respective dominions, the same privileges, liberty, and rights, as the most favoured nation, and shall not be charged, in any of these respects with any higher duties or imposts than those which are paid, or may be paid, by the native subjects or citizens of the Power in whose dominions they may be resident. They shall be exempted from all compulsory military service whatsoever, whether by sea or land, and from all forced loans, or military exactions or requisitions; neither shall they be compelled to pay any ordinary taxes, under any pretext whatsoever, greater than those that are paid by native subjects or citizens.

Art. 10. It shall be free for each of the two contracting parties to appoint Consuls for the protection of trade, to reside in the dominions and territories of the other party; but before any Consul shall act as such, he shall, in the usual form, be approved and admitted by the government to which he is sent; and either of the contracting parties may except from the residence of Consuls, such particular place as either of them may judge fit to be so excepted.

Art. 11. For the better security of commerce between the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, and the inhabitants of the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, it is agreed that if at any time any interruption of friendly commercial intercourse, or any rupture should unfortunately take place between the two contracting parties, the subjects or citizens of either of the two contracting parties residing in the dominions of the other, shall have the privilege of remaining and continuing their trade therein, without any manner of interruption, so long as they behave peaceably, and commit no offence against the laws; and their effects and property,

whether entrusted to individuals or to the state, shall not be liable to seizure or sequestration, or to any other demands than those which may be made upon the like effects or property, belonging to the native inhabitants of the state in which such subjects or citizens may reside.

Art. 12. The subjects of His Britannic Majesty residing in the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, shall not be disturbed, persecuted, or annoyed on account of their religion, but they shall have perfect liberty of conscience therein, and to celebrate Divine service either within their own private houses, or in their own particular churches or chapels, which they shall be at liberty to build and maintain in convenient places, approved of by the Government of the said United Provinces. Liberty shall also be granted to bury the subjects of His Britannic Majesty who may die in the territories of the said United Provinces, in their own burial places, which in the same manner they may establish and maintain. In the like manner, the citizens of the said United Provinces shall enjoy, within all the dominions of His Britannic Majesty a perfect and unrestrained liberty of conscience, and of exercising their religion publicly or privately, within their own dwelling houses, or in the chapels and places of worship appointed for that purpose, agreeable to the system of toleration established in the dominions of His Majesty.

Art. 13. It shall be free for the subjects of His Britannic Majesty, residing in the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata, to dispose of their property, of every description, by will or testament, as they may judge fit; and in the event of any British subjects dying without such will or testament in the territories of the said United Provinces, the British Consul-General, or, in his absence, his representative, shall have the right to nominate curators to take charge of the property of the deceased, for the benefit of his lawful heirs and creditors, without interference, giving convenient notice thereof to the authorities of the country; and reciprocally.

Art. 14. His Britannic Majesty being extremely desirous of totally abolishing the slave trade, the United Provinces of Rio de la Plata engage to co-operate with his Britannic Majesty for the completion of so beneficent a work, and to prohibit all persons inhabiting within the said United Provinces, or subject to their jurisdiction, in the most effectual manner, and by the most solemn laws, from taking any share in such trade.

Art. 15. The present treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in London within four months, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed their seals thereunto.

Done at Buenos Ayres, the second day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-five.

WOODBINE PARISH (L. S.) (H. M. Consul-General).

MANUEL JOSÉ GARCIA (L. S.)

In 1839 a treaty was concluded between England and Buenos Ayres for the suppression of the slave trade, slavery having been already abolished in the River Plate.

In 1842 the United States solemnly recognised the emancipation of La Plata from Spain.

In 1849 Great Britain raised the blockade, restored Martin Garcia, and made peace with the tyrant Rosas, the latter consenting to withdraw his forces from the Banda Oriental. By this treaty the navigation of the rivers Paraná and Uruguay was recognised as inland navigation, solely pertaining to the Argentine Republic and Banda Oriental.

In 1853, after the fall of Rosas, General Urquiza hastened to throw open the navigation of the rivers to the flags of all nations. On the 10th July of said year the Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, and France, proceeded to San José de Flores, and there concluded identical treaties on this subject.

TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The President of the United States and His Excellency the Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation, being desirous of strengthening the bonds of friendship which so happily subsist between their respective States and Countries, and convinced that the surest means of arriving at this result is to take in concert all the measures requisite for facilitating and developing commercial relations, have resolved to determine by treaty the conditions of the free navigation of the rivers Paraná and Uruguay, and thus to remove the obstacles which have hitherto impeded this navigation.

With this object they have named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

The President of the United States, Robert C. Shenck, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Brazil, and John S. Pendleton, *Chargé d'Affaires* of the United States to the Argentine Confederation.

And His Excellency the Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation, Doctor Don Salvador Maria del Carril, and Doctor Don José Benjamin Gorostiaga.

Who, after having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following articles :—

Art. 1. The Argentine Confederation, in the exercise of her sovereign rights, concedes the free navigation of the rivers Paraná and Uruguay, wherever they may belong to her, to the merchant vessels of all Nations, subject only to the conditions which this treaty establishes, and to the regulations sanctioned or which may hereafter be sanctioned by the National authority of the Confederation.

Art. 2. Consequently, the said vessels shall be admitted to remain, load and unload in the places and ports of the Argentine Confederation which are open for that purpose.

Art. 3. The Government of the Argentine Confederation, desirous to provide every facility for interior navigation, agrees to maintain beacons and marks for setting out the channels.

Art. 4. A uniform system shall be established by the competent authorities of the Confederation for the collection of the Custom-house duties, harbour lights, police and pilotage dues along the whole course of the waters which belong to the Confederation.

Art. 5. The high contracting parties, considering that the island of Martin Garcia may, from its position, embarrass and impede the free navigation of the confluent of the River Plate, agree to use their influence to prevent the possession of the said island from being retained or held by any State of the River Plate or its confluent which shall not have given its adhesion to the principle of their free navigation.

Art. 6. If it should happen (which God forbid) that war should break out between any of the States, Republics, or Provinces, the rivers Paraná and Uruguay shall remain free to the merchant flags of all nations, excepting in what may relate to munitions of war, such as arms of all kinds, gunpowder, lead, and cannon balls.

Art. 7. Power is expressly reserved to His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, and the Governments of Bolivia, Paraguay, and the Oriental State of Uruguay, to become parties to the present treaty in case they should be disposed to apply its principles to the parts of the rivers Paraná, Paraguay, and Uruguay, over which they may respectively possess fluvial rights.

Art. 8. The principal objects for which the rivers Paraná and Uruguay are declared free to the commerce of the world, being to extend the mercantile relations of the countries which border them, and to promote immigration, it is hereby agreed that no favour or immunity shall be

granted to the flag or trade of any other nation which shall not equally extend to those of the United States.

Art. 9. The present treaty shall be ratified on the part of the Government of the United States within fifteen months from its date, and within two days by His Excellency the Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation, who shall present it to the first Legislative Congress of the Confederation for their approbation.

The ratifications shall be exchanged at the seat of Government of the Argentine Confederation within the term of eighteen months.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this treaty, and affixed thereto their seals.

Done at San José de Flores on the tenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three.—ROBERT SCHENK—JOHN S. PENDLETON—SALVADOR MARIA DEL CARRIL—JOSÉ B. GOROSTIAGA.

In 1858, General Urquiza's Government concluded a convention with H.B.M.'s Minister, Mr. Christie, at Paraná, for payment of damages caused to British subjects during the civil wars, the claimants receiving 6 per cent. bonds.

CHAP. XI.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PUBLIC MEN.

PRESIDENT SARMIENTO.

DOMINGO FAUSTINO SARMIENTO was born in the town of San Juan at the end of February 1811, nine months after the glorious 25th of May that marks the birthday of the Argentine nation. His father, though uneducated, was an enthusiastic patriot, and took an active part in the revolution which emancipated his native country from the Colonial regime. Finding, at every step, the disadvantages of his ignorance, he determined that his son should not share them, and, from the early age of five years, sent him to school. There young Sarmiento, by his application and talent, gave already signs of his future greatness. Being originally destined for the Church, he was sent, in 1824, to the Loreto Seminary at Cordova; but the revolution of Carita, having deprived him of his Latin master, he began in 1825 to study mathematics and land surveying under Mr. Barreau, the engineer of the province. In the same year he went to San Luis with his relation, the Clerigo Oro, to continue the studies which the revolution of the previous year had interrupted. In 1826, returning to his native town, he hired as clerk in a store, but his nights were devoted either to reading or to discussions with his uncle, Father Albarracin, on the Bible. He took an active part in the campaign that followed against Facundo Quiroga in San Juan, and that against Fraile Aldao in Mendoza, which ended in the catastrophe of Pilar, where he rose to the rank of Captain, and where his courage and presence of mind saved him from many

dangerous chances. The victory of Facundo Quiroga, in Chacon, in 1831, obliged him and most of his companions to emigrate to Chile, where he was successively schoolmaster in the Andes, bar-keeper in Pocuro, clerk in a commercial house in Valparaiso, and major-domo of mines in Copiapo. In 1836 he returned to San Juan, poorer than he had left, and suffering from severe illness. He then, in society with Drs. Rosas, Cortinez, and Aberastain, devoted his energies to promote several institutions of great utility for the province of San Juan, such as a college for girls, another for boys, a dramatic society, and last, though not least, the *Zonda*, a weekly publication, that tended to improve and instruct the masses. General Benavides, who was then the absolute ruler of San Juan, took umbrage at the influence and position young Sarmiento was acquiring, and, not only suppressed the *Zonda*, but left no stone unturned, by vexatious persecution, to oblige him once more to emigrate. In this he at last succeeded; and in November 1840, Sarmiento again crossed the Cordillera, doomed to eat for a long time the hard-earned bread of exile. On his second visit to Chile he began to take an active part in the politics of his adopted country, and, both as editor of several papers, and as a writer of literary works, more especially of education, he acquired for himself a fame which found echo even in the Old World. In 1846 and 1847 he was sent to Europe on a commission by the Chilian Government, to inspect and report upon schools and educational institutions; and on his return wrote an account of his travels, which he published. By his powerful writings in the periodical press, and in his other works, he contributed to the overthrow of the tyrant Rosas, and also took an active part in the final scene that was enacted on the plains of Caseros, where he held the rank of Chief of the Staff of the Grande Ejercito Libertador, and as such compiled the famous bulletin giving the official account of that celebrated action. Having, however, fallen out with Urquiza, he took up his residence in Buenos Ayres, and continued taking an active part in the troubled politics of those days, principally as editor of the *Nacional*. He was then appointed Inspector-General of Schools, and was able by his great experience and profound knowledge to effect vast improvements in the educational system of the country. After the battle of Cepeda he took office with Governor Mitre as Ministro de Gobierno, until the sad news arrived of the tragical death of his school-fellow and friend, Aberastain, and of the invasion of Juan Saa in the province of San Juan. He disagreed with his colleagues as to the action that the Government of Buenos Ayres was called to assume, and resigned. He subsequently took part in the campaign that was decided on the banks of the Pavon, and at the end of December re-entered San Juan, after

twenty-two years exile, at the head of a victorious army. Having been unanimously elected Governor of the province, he devoted for two years and a-half all his energy and ability to the moral and material progress of his native province, and had the glory of bringing to a successful issue the difficult campaign against the great «caudillo» of the west, General Peñaloza, commonly called the Chacho. In April 1864, at the entreaty of President Mitre, he consented to go as Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington. During a residence of four years in the United States he became imbued with the progressive ideas of Americans, especially admiring their system of popular education. In August 1868, he was elected President of the Argentine Republic, for the usual term of six years, the voting being as follows:—

<i>For President.</i>		<i>For Vice-President.</i>	
	Votes.		Votes.
Domingo F. Sarmiento,	79	Adolfo Alsina,	82
General Urquiza,	26	Wenceslao Paunero,	45
Rufino de Elizalde,	22	Manuel Ocampo,	2
Guillermo Rawson,	3	Francisco de las Carreras,	1
Dalmacio Velez Sarsfield,	1	Juan B. Alberdi,	1

On the 12th October 1868, he entered into office.

VICE-PRESIDENT ALSINA.

Adolfo Alsina was born in Buenos Ayres on the 13th of February 1829. His father having been driven into exile to Montevideo, young Adolfo began there his studies. In 1852 he came back to Buenos Ayres with his father, and continued his studies in the Buenos Ayres University, where he received his degree of Doctor of Laws. He took up arms in 1852, and shortly afterwards was made captain, and during the siege of 1853 commanded an important «canton,» where he distinguished himself for great bravery. He took an active part in political life, as member of the Club Libertad, and made himself notable by his energy and eloquence. Cepeda found him promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and on that day he earned great praise for military tact and courage displayed amidst adversity. He was present at Pavon, where he commanded a battalion of National Guards. After a journey to Europe, in 1866, the influence he held in the Club Libertad secured his election as Governor of Buenos Ayres, from which post he has been raised to the Vice-Presidency. He is of a jovial character, and very popular among his friends. To all the fine qualities of his father, the much-respected Dr. V. Alsina, he adds an energy of character which is

rarely met with among our public men, and which he inherits from his mother, Doña A. Maza, daughter of Dr. Manuel Vicente Maza, who took a busy part in public affairs during the time of Rosas, and whose tragic end is notorious. His administration as Governor of Buenos Ayres was remarkable for two important measures, either of which is sufficient to throw over it a lustre of imperishable glory: they are the foundation of the *Oficina de Cambios*, for fixing the value of the currency, and the city water-works.

GENERAL MITRE, EX-PRESIDENT.

Brigadier-General Bartolomé Mitre, the late President of the Republic, is a native of Buenos Ayres. He commenced his career as cadet of artillery in Montevideo in 1839, rose to the rank of captain fighting against the armies of Oribe and Urquiza until 1845, when he left for Chile, where he was appointed Colonel and fought against Bolivia, commanding a field battery; after the war he edited several papers, and came in 1852 commanding the Oriental artillery of the allied army against Rosas, in Caseros. Was elected deputy to the local legislature, which, having made strong opposition to the Government, was forcibly dissolved, and he with several others went into exile. He was recalled after the revolution of 1852, appointed commander of the forces in Buenos Ayres in the siege of 1853, and was made Minister of War; was promoted to the rank of General in 1859, and commanded the army of Buenos Ayres at the battle of Cepeda, which he lost. Was elected Governor of the Province in 1860, promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, and won the battle of Pavón against the army of the Confederation, after which he pacified the country, and was unanimously elected President, in October 1862. During his administration Buenos Ayres made great progress in industry, commerce, and public enterprises. The Cordoba railway, electric telegraph, and other notable works are associated with this period; but it is also true that the state of the Upper Provinces was deplorable, the Indians devastating the frontiers with impunity. But for the war with Paraguay, the Argentine Republic must have advanced with rapid strides in all the arts of peace. General Mitre always evinced great friendship for Englishmen, and is an admirer of our literature, having translated some of Longfellow's poems. He stands high as a Spanish writer, for his life of General Belgrano, and is a member of several European literary associations. On the conclusion of his term of office, October 12th 1868, his friends and admirers purchased a house for him. He is fond of playing chess, and is a thorough republican in sentiment.

GENERAL URQUIZA.

Justo José de Urquiza, Captain-General, ex-President, and Governor of Entre-Ríos, was born near Concepcion about the beginning of the present century. He began life behind a draper's counter, but soon took to a military career, in which he was eminently successful. He expelled Rosas in 1852, was elected President, gave a Constitution to the Republic, threw open the rivers to the flags of all nations, and restored order in the upper provinces. In 1859 he obliged Buenos Ayres to re-enter the Argentine Confederation, but was defeated by General Mitre in 1861. Since then he has lived in retirement at his princely estancia of San José, near Concepcion, where he treats all visitors, especially Englishmen, with the warmest hospitality. His cattle and sheep-farms are as large as some of the smaller European monarchies, and give him a splendid income. He encourages immigration, railways, &c., and has subscribed £20,000 to the Central Argentine Company. He was again elected Governor of Entre Ríos in 1867, and was next after Sarmiento in the list of candidates for the Presidency. His last service to the Republic was the pacification of Corrientes, in union with the veteran diplomatist, Dr. Velez Sarsfield.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF BUENOS AYRES.

His Grace, Dr. José Maria Bustillos y Zeballos de Escalada, is descended of an old Spanish family, and was born in this city, A.D. 1800. He was raised to the episcopal dignity as co-adjutor to the late Bishop Medrano, under the title 'Bishop of Aulon, *in partibus.*' In 1854 a Papal bull created him Bishop of Buenos Ayres, and in 1866 the see was elevated to an Archbishopric. Dr. Escalada is a man of portly and patriarchal appearance, and is much esteemed for his unassuming manners. His palace, in the Plaza Victoria, adjacent to the Cathedral, was erected for him by the State, in 1861. He has a secretary, a chaplain, and three clerks for the despatch of business. His salary is about £1,000 a year. Out of his private fortune he has built a chapel near the English cemetery, connected with the diocesan clerical college.

GOVERNOR CASTRO.

Emilio Castro, Governor of the Province of Buenos Ayres, is a native of this city, and about fifty years of age. He has rendered long and varied services in many public capacities, and enjoys general confidence. In 1859 he was Chief of Police; in 1861 as commander of a battalion of National Guards he saw some military service: Being elected Senator in the Provincial Legislature, he held his seat in the Chamber till chosen its President.

Under the last administration he filled the office of Government Inspector of Railways. On the elevation of Governor Alsina to the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, Mr. Castro, as President of the Senate, became Governor *ex-officio*. Having been educated in Scotland, he has strong sympathies for everything English, and is of course conversant with our language.

DR. SARSFIELD, PRIME-MINISTER.

Dalmacio Velez Sarsfield was born in Cordova about the beginning of the present century, and received his education in the university of that city. He has long been reputed the first jurisconsult in the country, and his Civil Code, compiled at the request of Congress, is just published. During various administrations he held office successively, and his name is associated with Bank-reform and other important measures. In the last Congress he sat as Senator for his native province. The new President on assuming office gave him the direction of the Cabinet as Minister of Interior. Dr. Sarsfield claims to be descended from a distinguished Irish family: he is well read in the judicial literature of England and North America, and his name is not unknown in high legal circles in Germany. He is an able speaker and writer.

DR. VARELA, FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Mariano Varela, Minister for Foreign Affairs, is son of the late Florencio Varela, a distinguished writer, who was assassinated in Montevideo by order of General Oribe, on account of his writings in the *Comercio del Plata*. The brothers Hector and Mariano Varela served their time as printers in Rio Janeiro; after the fall of Rosas they came to Buenos Ayres and established the *Tribuna* newspaper, which soon acquired the foremost place in the press of these countries. Dr. Varela distinguished himself no less in Congress than as a journalist, and entered the Ministerial career under Governor Alsina, as Minister of Finance for the Province of Buenos Ayres. The foreign merchants presented him with a gold medal for his labors in establishing a fixed currency. He has taken a diploma as Doctor of Laws, and is a good English scholar. He is only thirty-two years of age.

SR. GOROSTIAGA, FINANCE.

Benjamin Gorostiaga, even before his appointment to the portfolio of Finance, was favorably known as a political economist, having gained an early reputation under the old regime at Paraná. During his parliamentary career in the Congress convened by General Mitre, he was always remarkable for his clearness of views, and his mastery of statistical returns. He is about sixty years of age, and has a fine estancia near Chivilcoy.

DR. AVELLANEDA, INSTRUCTION.

Nicolas Avellaneda is the son of a respectable citizen of Tucuman, who was Governor of that Province, until beheaded by Rosas. He was educated in Cordova, and came to Buenos Ayres in 1857 to study law. He had scarcely attained his 20th year when he was employed as editor of the *Nacional*, and named professor of civil law at the University. His work on Public Lands, in 1865, attracted favorable notice, and Governor Alsina appointed him Minister of Government for Buenos Ayres. His practise as a lawyer was considerable until he embraced political life. His views on popular education are as advanced as those of President Sarmiento. He is conversant with French and Latin classics, and is studying English. He is only thirty years of age, and is a better writer than orator.

COLONEL GAINZA, WAR AND MARINE.

Martin Gainza spent his early years in Montevideo. His father was a Colonel under Lavalle, and fought in all the campaigns against Rosas, from 1840 till the fall of the tyrant in 1852. The subject of our notice first distinguished himself as a cavalry officer in the civil wars and the Indian frontier service. He owns large estancias near Zarate, and was for some years Commander-in-chief of the National Guards of the Province. He served under the last administration as Inspector of Arms, and was subsequently a candidate for the post of Governor on the termination of Governor Saavedra's period of office.

GENERAL GELLY-OBES.

John Andrew Gelly-Obes, Brigadier-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Argentine army, is said to be a native either of Buenos Ayres or the Banda Oriental, although the family appears of Paraguayan descent. His father was for a time Prime-Minister to the first Lopez (1852) in Paraguay, and when the young Lopez, since President, was sent to Europe on a diplomatic mission near the courts of St. James and the Tuilleries, Mr. Gelly-Obes, senior, accompanied him. The subject of our notice was commander of the Argentine Legion in the defence of Montevideo (1842-51), and subsequently Secretary in the War-office. During the campaign of Cepeda, 1859, he abandoned, for a time, his profession of auctioneer, to assume the command of the National Guards of Buenos Ayres. In 1861 he was made a Major-General, and gave up business. He aided General Flores in the invasion of Banda Oriental, in 1863, and, on the outbreak of the Paraguayan war, was removed from the portfolio of War and Marine, to act as Chief-of-staff to General Mitre. He has since seen some active service in the campaign of Paraguay.

GENERAL PAUNERO.

Wenceslaus Paunero, Argentine Minister at Rio, is a native of Montevideo, and began his military career in 1826 in the campaign against Brazil. In the civil wars of 1828-36, he sided against Rosas and was forced to take refuge in Bolivia, where he made a living as skop-assistant, and afterwards started a newspaper. The Montevidean Government named him *Chargé d'Affaires* in Bolivia, and during his residence there he married the sister of General Ballivian (afterwards President). In 1851 he returned to the River Plate, to assist in the war against Rosas, and was present at the battle of Caseros, 1852. He served against the Indians till 1858, and was General Mitre's Chief-of-Staff both at Cepeda and Pavon, being made a Major-General on the latter field. He has since seen much service in the civil war with the Chacho, the Paraguayan campaign, the San Juan revolution, &c. He was candidate for Vice-President at the late election, but was defeated by D. Adolfo Alsina. One of the first acts of President Sarmiento was to confide to him the important mission that he now holds.

DON NORBERTO RIESTRA.

Norberto de la Riestra was born in this city in 1825, of Spanish parentage, and when young sent to England for education. He was first employed in a commercial house in Liverpool, and afterwards sent out to take charge of the branch-house in his native city. His eminent financial talents soon shewed themselves, and he was chosen for the delicate task of arranging the Buenos Ayrean debt in London. This business he concluded so satisfactorily that the Bonds at once rose to an unprecedented figure, and he merited the thanks no less of the Bond-holders than of his own Government and countrymen. In 1860 he became Finance Minister for the Province of Buenos Ayres, and on the incorporation of this state with the Confederation was chosen for the same office in the Cabinet of Paraná. But the rupture which soon took place with Buenos Ayres induced him to resign the portfolio and return to this city, where the victory of Pavon found him in his old post, and as confidential adviser of President Mitre he is known to have steadfastly advocated the non-repudiation policy in all matters of public debt, the adoption of which has established our National Credit on a firm basis. Having resigned his seat in the Cabinet, he was soon elected Senator in the Provincial Legislature, and distinguished himself by his labors for the Great Southern Railway, and a scheme for the redemption of paper-money. On the formation of the London and River Plate Bank, the Board secured his influence and advice by naming

him Resident Director. Mr. Riestra may be in many respects almost considered an Englishman, and his sympathies and regard for everything English are well-known. We need not add that he is a strenuous friend of immigration, and of all Anglo-Argentine enterprises. In May 1865, on the occasion of the Paraguayan war, he was sent to London to negotiate a loan voted by Congress, for two and a-half millions sterling: this he concluded at $72\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. although the Home Bonds of the Republic were quoted at the time, at forty-four, in Buenos Ayres. Failing health prevented his presenting his credentials as Plenipotentiary near the Court of St. James.

DON MARIANO BALCARCE.

This gentleman is accredited Argentine Minister near the courts of Paris, London, and Madrid, but he resides within a few miles of Paris. He is married to the daughter of the famous General San Martin, of the epoch of Independence. He belongs to a wealthy family of Buenos Ayres, and is said to be very hospitable to friends or residents coming from the River Plate. His last official business was in connection with the Argentine stall at the Paris Exhibition.

SR. POSADAS, POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

Gervacio A. Posadas is son of the late Supreme Director, Juan Antonio Posadas. In his youth he spent some years in England, where he became acquainted with many leading men, including Sir Rowland Hill and others. He speaks English and French fluently, and has introduced many postal improvements, but, the revenue at his disposal is much too limited, and the premises are wholly unsuitable. No other department shows so much increase as the 'Correo,' the number of letters and papers regularly doubling every two years.

MR. O'GORMAN CHIEF OF POLICE.

Enrique O'Gorman is descended of an old and respectable French family whose ancestors were, of course, Irish, as the name indicates. He is an active and intelligent official, but the present police department is a relic of the old Spanish system, quite inadequate to the necessities of the time.

CHAP. XII.

MINING IN THE CUYO PROVINCES.

SAN JUAN.

To the indomitable energy and untiring perseverance of the actual President of the Republic, H.E. Dr. Don Domingo F. Sarmiento (during his Governorship of San Juan), is due, in a great measure, the rapid development of the mining industry in this province. In the year 1862 he had the mining districts examined by Major F. I. Rickard, F.G.S., &c. (engaged in Chile for that purpose), and in sight of his various reports, and impartial statements, a Limited Liability Company was established in San Juan, with the small capital of \$110,000 s., destined to be the pioneer undertaking in developing the hidden riches of Tontal, distant some thirty leagues S.S.W. from the city.

Although the mines of La Huerta, fifty leagues to the N.E., had been some time previously in operation, and a crude system of smelting had been essayed by the owners of Santo Domingo, the political disturbances and constant changes in the administration precluded the possibility of their being worked to advantage. The ores were rich in silver, and of a plum-biferous nature, with a tolerably fusible gangue; but, with such appliances as existed at that establishment for the extraction of the precious metals, and the want of knowledge and practice on the part of the owners or managers, large deficits resulted instead of gain. The smelting works were consequently abandoned, and the mines only kept partially worked, awaiting brighter times.

Meanwhile, a Frenchman, who had been employed in the works as smelter, erected a small blast furnace a short distance from the mines, on the site now occupied by the Messrs. Klappenbach, who purchased his miserable attempt at a metallurgical establishment, in a good round sum. They have, however, completely remodelled it, and now possess works—small, it is true, but still sufficiently perfect for the object for which they are intended. The system employed is similar to the old method adopted in former years at Pontgibaud, Puy-de-Dôme, France, but now obsolete and replaced by another far superior, by the Anglo-French Company.

As no official statistics can be obtained, it is very difficult to estimate correctly the annual produce of silver from the La Huerta mines; all of which, however, passes through the Messrs. Klappenbach's hands. Since the year 1863, the mining industry in the district has been gradually improving, and is still advancing. Santo Domingo has lately had some splendid «alcances» or bunches of rich ore, with native silver visible, and silver glance in fair abundance. The general impulse given by the Messrs. Klappenbach is now bearing fruit, and numerous old mines are being resuscitated and worked with profit. The annual produce of silver from the Messrs. Klappenbach's works may be set down at about 7,000 marks Spanish, or about 51,800 oz. Troy, whose value in Buenos Ayres may be taken in round numbers at \$70,000 s.

The Tontal district, rich in «dry» non-plumbiferous silver ores, is much more abundant than La Huerta, but the nature of the accompanying gangue, which is invariably silicious, presents many difficulties to the metallurgist, in the course of operations necessary for the extraction of the silver. But, in order to counterbalance, as it were, this mistake of nature, another new district, a little to the north, was discovered in 1864, yielding abundant supplies of galenas (sulphides of lead), as also carbonates and sulphates, together with other combinations, all more or less plumbiferous, and highly necessary as a flux or medium by which to extract the precious metals from the refractory dry ores of Tontal. This new district is Castaño, about twenty-five leagues from Tontal, in a north-westerly direction towards the Cordillera, and some fifty leagues N.W. from San Juan.

The beginning of 1864, saw the commencement of the metallurgical establishment at Hilario, belonging to the already mentioned limited company, distant some seven leagues from Tontal and twenty from Castaño, agreeably situated on the border of the San Juan River called at this point Los Patos. This spot was selected by Major Rickard, the manager, as being best suited for the works, owing to the facility of obtaining water power for the machinery, the abundance of firewood necessary for the furnaces, and

above all as being the only fertile and inhabited valley in the whole district where pasture for animals and the necessities of life are obtainable.

A great drawback, however, existed, namely, its isolation from all the highways of traffic, and entire absence of anything like transitable roads. Heavy machinery for crushing and amalgamating the ores was necessary, and those pieces which could not be made sufficiently light for transport on mules, had necessarily to be taken up on carts. Here lay the difficulty—Hilario is separated from San Juan by three lofty ranges of mountains; that of Tontal, on the actual mule track, being at an elevation of 12,147 feet above the sea. Narrow defiles and impassable gorges traversed by mountain torrents, intercept the route at various points, and make the idea of forming a cart road there, the wildest dream of impossibility. This insurmountable difficulty was however overcome by taking a very circuitous route to the north; and, by traversing some fifty leagues of extra march, a road was made, partly by the Government and partly by the Company, which, if not macadamized and level, was sufficiently transitable for lightly laden carts. But alas, the freight on machinery from San Juan to Hilario almost exceeded the amount paid on it from Liverpool to San Juan.

In April 1864 the limited Company got short of funds, and it was found that the capital was too small. Major Rickard then came forward and offered to purchase all the shares at par and continue the works for his own account, with the ulterior view of forming an extensive company in London. His offer was accepted, and towards the close of 1865 the Hilario works began to extract silver and silver lead in large quantities. During about ten months of active operations some 250 tons of lead and 9,000 marks of silver were produced and remitted to Europe for realization.

In addition to over 200 employés at the works, including wood-cutters, charcoal-burners, muleteers, and peones, upwards of 500 were employed in the mines of Tontal and Castaño, and solely in those belonging to Major Rickard.

At the same time, large numbers of miners worked mines on their own account, and in all over 100 were at one time in active exploration. Hundreds of tons of ore were produced, and lay at the mines' mouths, ready for transmission to the works; but, unfortunately, the means of transport were fearfully inadequate to the production of ore, or even the requirements of Hilario. The furnaces alone were capable of smelting six tons per day, and the amalgamation machinery of passing through four tons more; yet the daily deliveries of ore only reached about three tons on the

average. Hence, the works, and European staff of expensive operatives, were more than half the time idle, waiting for ore which lay in abundance at the mines, but could not be transported to Hilario. In vain were the rates of freight raised, until almost double their normal or just value. The muleteers could not be persuaded or induced to abandon their accustomed haunts on the Pampa, and bury themselves in the Andes. The industry and undertaking were new in the province, on such an extended scale; the routine and habits of centuries had been disturbed by the busy, and not to be defeated Anglo-Saxon. Order, discipline, and industrious habits, as engendered and exacted by Europeans in matters of business, were distasteful to the indolent, easy-living, and independent denizens of the South. But, alas! in this country these are not the only evils against which Industry has to struggle and do battle.

The spring of 1866 saw the flame of civil war and revolution kindled in Cuyo, and the unbridled passions of the masses obtain full sway in society. This fatal barrier to the progress of civilisation and industry, coming at a moment so critical, served to complete the ruin of the mining prospects in the province. The mines were abandoned by their owners, who fled in numbers across the Andes, seeking refuge in Chile. The peons and workmen fled to the towns, too eager to join in the orgies of their fellows, and accumulate in a day, by their vandalism, more than the gains of a whole life dedicated to honest toil! Muleteers sought refuge in the mountain fastnesses, amongst unfrequented streams, where sufficient pasture could be obtained for their mules, and in order to save them from the general confiscation decreed by the vandalic hordes on the plains! All these circumstances together were too much for a new industry to withstand—and so Hilario was obliged to suspend operations. Later on, when tranquillity was restored in the interior, the works were resuscitated on a small scale, and so continued up to recently, when a new English Company having been formed for the purpose, it proposed to take over the concern, mines, &c., and re-establish work on a large scale. The arrangements are now being carried out, and the coming year, 1869, will see the industry, probably in a more advanced state than at any period heretofore. The mines are as abundant as ever, and are capable of producing much, but capital and intelligence are sadly wanting on the part of the owners.

In Tontal an unproductive band of blende (sulphide of zinc) has appeared at a depth of sixty yards, and it has not as yet been passed in those mines where active work is being carried on. The inducement to cut through this mass of ore is however very great, as it is almost certain a rich deposit of precious metal exists beyond. Indeed we have almost a proof of this

from old workings followed up in the province of Mendoza on same range of mountains, where the blende has been passed and rich silver ore cut, producing up to 500 marks per cajon (three tons).

The workings actively carried on now at Tontal are few, comparatively speaking, but the yield of good ore is as proportionately abundant as ever—many more mines would be worked if a convenient market could be found for the produce; hence all are anxiously on the *qui vive* for the resuscitation of Hilario by the new company «The Anglo-Argentine» with a capital of \$250,000s. (limited).

The geological formation of Tontal mineral district proper, is almost exclusively clay-slate, and the ores raised may be divided into three classes as follows :—

1. Plumbiferous ores (principally galenas) yielding from 100 to 150 marks per cajon of 6½ quintals, or more or less 245 to 368 ozs. Troy, to the English ton of 20 cwt. The silver exists chiefly as Sulphide, Arsenide, and Antimonide. This class is not very abundant.

2. Dry refractory ores or 'pinta' of the class known here as 'calido,' containing a fair share of chloride of silver; but they should not be properly classed as 'calidos,' because there exist in their composition arsenides and antimonides of silver, termed 'frios'—they also hold some sulphates and carbonates of lead; are fairly abundant and yield from 50 to 90 marks of silver per cajon, or 123 to 220 ozs. Troy to the English ton.

3. The same as 2nd class, but of much inferior percentage in silver, and almost entirely free from lead. Very abundant, and averaging from 15 to 45 marks per cajon, or from 37 to 110 onz. to the English ton.

The Castaño district is almost the opposite to Tontal as regards the composition of its ores. The greater part of them are highly plumbiferous, but are wanting in richness of precious metal. They may be classed like those of Tontal into three kinds. The geological formation of Castaño is much broken up and confused, but the principal ore bearing rocks are porphyritic.

1. Galenas, or sulphides of lead. Very pure, holding up to 80 per cent. of lead, and from 10 to 20 marks of silver per cajon. Abundant, some veins over three yards in width. In depth, the same blende bands have appeared as in Tontal, but unlike those, are, to some extent, auriferous. Will probably cut good ore in greater depth.

5. Sulphates, and carbonates, with molybdates and chromates of lead. The former very abundant, and hold from 60 to 70 per cent. of lead, and from 8 to 10 marks of silver per cajon, or from 19 to 24 ozs. to the ton.

3. Ferruginous, and cupriferous silver ores proper. The former non-plumbiferous, and holding from 10 to 30 marks per cajon, highly charged

with oxide of iron, which serves as a flux in furnace operations. The latter contain some lead, and yield from 25 to 80 marks silver per cajon, fairly abundant, but not docile in the furnace owing to the copper being combined with manganese.

The above ores received the Bronze Medal in the Paris Exhibition, 1867 awarded to Major Rickard. (Messrs. Klappenbach's also received a similar reward for the ores of La Huerta.) The complete collection sent from Hilario contained 85 specimens, and exhibited the ores in all their stages of treatment from the crude state to the refined silver.

Having described the mining districts of the west, and their produce we will now proceed to enumerate and give some description of the metallurgical establishments for 'beneficiating' the ores, as they exist at the present time; as also describe the various processes in operation for extracting the precious metals.

As we have already observed, the Messrs. Klappenbach employ the now obsolete system of Pontgibaud, but, although it is no longer used at that place, it is no reason why it should not be introduced and continued here. For we must bear in mind that, in nearly all industrial progress—in the interior at least—we are almost a century behind Europe. Still in some instances, it may be preferable to use antiquated systems here, requiring less skilled labour, and consequently less costly to carry out.

The ores, as delivered at Messrs. Klappenbach's (and at all the works, as a rule), are simply handpicked, and subjected to no other previous dressing; hence it is that they contain a large amount of foreign matter, frequently deleterious, and undoubtedly prejudicial to the facile extraction of the silver. Their fineness varies from lumps the size of walnuts to that of small peas, but rarely or never finer. To this defect must be attributed the extra trouble and cost of smelting; for, were the ores ground and mixed into a homogeneous mass previous to their introduction into the furnace, the time, labour, fuel, and general cost, would be perhaps reduced one third, and undoubtedly the results obtained in precious metal would be materially altered in favor of the metallurgist.

As it is, a mixture of galenas with 'dry' ores is made in the proportion of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ the former to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the latter. This is introduced into the ordinary single soled reverberatory furnace (at La Huerta) and calcined at a low heat at first, and gradually increased, until all the volatile matters, such as sulphur and arsenic with some of the antimony (should the ores contain it) are driven off, when the fire is increasingly continued, and the mass run into a liquid slag. This is run out on one side of the furnace and when cold is broken up and carried to the deposit for calcined ore.

The next operation is that of smelting or fusing this calcined ore with fluxes in the 'blast furnace.' A proportionate mixture is made for this purpose, consisting, more or less, of say, 100 parts of calcined ore from previous operation, 15 to 20 parts of oxide of iron, and from 7 to 10 parts of raw limestone. Sometimes a quantity of rich blast furnace slags is added. This mixture is passed through an upright blast furnace (rectangular) in intimate contact with the fuel (charcoal) which acts as a powerful reducing agent. During the twenty-four hours, about 16 to 20 quintals of calcined ore are smelted in each blast furnace, of the class used at La Huerta, and the products are—a hard lead, holding nearly all the silver present in the ore—a crude matt, or regulus of lead and copper, with sulphur and antimony, and slags. These latter, if poor, are thrown away; if rich in lead and silver are mixed with fresh portions of calcined ore, where they serve as flux, and yield up their metallic contents on being again passed through the furnace.

The matt being a sulphide of lead with copper and antimony, &c., holds invariably some silver, and is roasted in the reverberatory furnace, either alone or with ore, and again passed through the blast.

The hard, or work lead, is taken to the deposit until sufficient be accumulated to refine, say, from one to two hundred quintals.

The refining is conducted in a circular cupelling furnace (known as the Continental system) where nearly all the lead is charged at once, and the heat gradually raised to a bright red, when the oxidised lead or litharge is melted and begins to flow over the surface of the metallic lead. A nozzle of sheet iron coated with clay, is then introduced at the back of the furnace, and a strong current of air directed over the surface. This drives off the litharge and other impurities which keep rising and accumulating, by the oxidizing influence of heated atmospheric air. A slit is now made on the marl furnace bottom (the top of which rises slightly above the surface of the metallic bath around the sides), in the doorway, opposite the blast nozzle, and the fused litharge, &c., thus finding a channel, begins to flow off slowly. This is continued until all the lead and the greater part of copper, iron, antimony, &c., are oxidized, leaving a plate of impure silver on the bottom of the cupel furnace. This plate is removed when cold, and placed in another furnace of similar construction, but much smaller, and having a bone-ash bottom firmly beaten in, where it is melted, and the action of the fire and oxidizing influences of the air are allowed full scope for a sufficient time to thoroughly purify the silver. When this is done, the furnace is allowed to cool, the solid plate removed, and is thus sent to Buenos Ayres.

The Messrs. Klappenbach use bellows moved by mules, as there is not sufficient water power available to drive a blowing machine or fan. They have an almost inexhaustible supply of firewood in close proximity to their works, which are the only ones at present in active operation in the eastern districts of the Province.

We will now pass to the western districts, or those of Tontal and Castaño.

In all, there are four metallurgical establishments—three in operation and one abandoned. They are respectively—

1. Messrs. Babié & Co., Castaño; cost and capital invested about \$30,000 Bol.
2. Don Rafael Fraguero, Calingasta; say \$2,000 Bol.; abandoned.
3. La Sorocayense, Don Anjel Riera; about \$15,000 Bol.
4. Hilario, Major F. Ignacio Rickard (Anglo-Argentine Co., Limited); cost and capital invested \$400,000 Bol.

(1). Messrs. Babié & Co.'s works are situate close to the Castaño mines, on the river of that name, and are exclusively smelting works, on precisely the same principle as those of La Huerta, having been originally built by an ex-employé of that establishment. They consist of two small blast furnaces—a wretched attempt at a calcining or reverberatory furnace—and, ditto, cupelling or refining furnace. They have a horizontal water wheel, with about eight feet head, and may get, perhaps, 6-horse power effective. Their blowing apparatus was formerly two pairs of bellows, but now consists of an ordinary flat-bladed circular fan, incapable of producing a sufficiently strong blast, owing to its faulty gearing and unsteady movement of the driving wheel or drum, which is sixteen feet in diameter by six inches wide, driving with a three-inch belt on to an inch and a-half pulley, fixed on the axle of the fan! Their annual production of silver will scarcely reach 2,000 marks, and much loss of precious metal must be sustained from the imperfect and careless system pursued about the works. Their proximity to the Castaño mines and firewood are, however, their great redeeming points, and thus they are enabled to work with comparative advantage.

(2). The works of Don Rafael Fraguero were only capable of treating ores by amalgamation, hence only those known as «calidos» or holding chlorides, chloro-bromides, bromo-iodides, or native silver, could be treated with advantage, and as few of the ores of the district contain their silver exclusively in these combinations, the speculation, in a commercial, as well as metallurgical point of view, was a failure. They are now completely abandoned, and the old amalgamation barrels may be seen

strewn about on the heaps of relaves or tailings, becoming every day more useless from exposure to the scorching sun and dry atmosphere of this elevated valley.

(3). *La Sorocayense*.—Leaving Señor Fragueiro's works, and proceeding south up the valley of Barrial or Calingasta, about three leagues distant, is situate Hilario, and about two leagues still further south in the same valley, on the Tontal road, are situate the works enjoying the rather unique and to many unintelligible name above expressed. Its derivation is traceable to the system of amalgamation used, and which has its origin in a small place in Bolivia named Sorocaya.

The system employed is properly amalgamation; but the ores are previously subjected to a species of calcination with common salt, having for its ostensible object the conversion of the silver into chloride, and thus rendering it extractable by amalgamation with mercury. This end is not, however, by any means satisfactorily attained, owing to the nature of the ores treated; still, a fair amount of silver is extracted, averaging about six marks, or forty-five ounces, daily. The ore is ground very fine by edge-runners, and passed through a sieve having 3,600 holes to the square inch, after which it is calcined for from five to eight hours in a reverberatory furnace, with about five per cent. of common salt, at a very low temperature, and kept constantly turned and stirred to prevent agglutination. It is then withdrawn, and when cold, is charged into an oblong trough about twelve feet by four, and four deep, accompanied by mercury, where it is gently agitated by a cylinder having a horizontal motion, and kept in intimate contact with the mercury for several hours; when finished, the mass of ore (called tailings) is washed off by water and conveyed into large pits or deposits, where it is allowed to settle, and is again, when dry, subjected to a further calcination, in case it should have retained sufficient silver to pay expenses of treatment. The mercury in the trough, now charged with silver, is drawn off and strained through canvass bags, in which a rich amalgam of silver, combined with about six times its weight of mercury, remains. This is subsequently pressed hard, and placed in an iron retort, connected with a condensing apparatus, where the remaining mercury is distilled off by heat and recovered, leaving the now almost pure silver in a beautiful white porous mass, which may be fused into ingots and sent to market. This silver is, however, rarely so pure as that obtained by smelting the ores with galena, and refining the argentiferous lead.

(4). *Hilario*.—These works are situate in the valley of Calingasta, Tontal district, thirty-three leagues S.S.W. by W. from San Juan city, and forty-eight leagues N.N.W. from Mendoza, in lat. 31 deg. 20 min., S., and long.

69 deg. 90 min. W. from Greenwich, at an elevation of 5,624 feet above sea level, are the largest metallurgical works in the Republic, and adapted to both systems, smelting and amalgamation. The machinery for the latter was made by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons of London, and consists, in part, of barrels on the Freyberg system, and 'tinas' on the Chilian system. The full working power or capacity of both, may be set down at ten tons of crude ore in the twenty-four hours. The motive power is a large turbine with thirty-three feet head, and discharge pipe two feet six inches in diameter. The effective horse-power may be set down at ninety-five. To this turbine is also geared the grinding machinery, edge-runners and a small extra blowing fan.

But by far the largest and most important part of the works is dedicated to the smelting and refining with their attendant ore, charcoal and wood deposits. The ground actually occupied by the establishment covers over twelve acres, not including the houses, stores, &c., for peones, occupying a street without the works.

The system of smelting followed at Hilario has some resemblance, as a whole, to Messrs. Klappenbach's, but is, in detail, very different. It is in fact as nearly as possible the same as the present improved system carried out at Pontgibaud, France, managed by Messrs. J. Taylor & Sons, the celebrated mine agents of London. The ores, mixed in certain proportions, are calcined 'dead' in a reverberatory furnace of peculiar construction having a 'double' sole, on one of which is completed the agglomeration and fusion into a liquid slag, care being taken that no reduction to metallic lead takes place. The smelting or fusion of this roasted ore is conducted in the class of blast furnaces known as the Castillian furnace, having three 'tuyères' and large capacity. Each furnace is capable of smelting, of tolerably fusible ore, up to six and eight tons in the twenty-four hours with a consumption of about sixty quintals of charcoal. Two sets of three men are employed at each furnace in shifts of twelve hours each set, and are paid—the foreman (English) \$60 B. a month, the second hand \$30 B., and the third \$20 B. per month; all without rations, but with house accommodation and fuel.

The blowing machine is a powerful fan five feet in diameter, driven up to 1800 revolutions per minute by a twenty-five horse power turbine, with 33ft. head and 2ft. 1in. diameter discharge pipe. The wind from this fan is sent to different parts of the establishment, partly in pipes and partly by cemented brickwork flues, so as to be available for the silver lead refining furnaces and the forge fires.

The argentiferous lead produced from the Castillian furnace, being hard,

is first 'improved' or softened in an improving furnace of the reverberatory class, and when freed from any copper, antimony, arsenic, or iron, which may have been reduced with it, is refined direct on a bone-ash cupel or test by what is known as the English system, silver is thus obtained by one cupellation up to 995-thousandths fine.

I should here observe that Pattinson's process of crystallising out pure lead and concentrating the silver for refining, as practised at Pontgibaud and other works, is not used at Hilario. But this omission is by no means prejudicial; on the contrary, very little, if any, advantage would be derived by its adoption there, because the argentiferous lead produced direct from the blast furnace averages over one per cent of silver, and it is a recognized fact that any attempt at enriching lead, by Pattinson's process, beyond 2 per cent. has commercially failed. Hence the concentration is rarely carried beyond this figure, and the system is only adapted where there are large quantities of poor lead produced, which would be unprofitable to refine direct.

At Hilario there are three furnaces of the reverberatory class, with one refining furnace on the English system, and two Castillian blast furnaces. The ore deposits are capable of storing over a thousand tons, divided into compartments with tiled floors, and numbered. Each compartment having its Dr. and Cr. account in a separate book for entries from mines and deliveries to the furnaces, hence at a glance it may be determined what stock remains on hand, and how much has been worked up, without the trouble of re-weighing.

The Chemical Laboratory for analysis and assays by the humid method is a complete department in itself, and most perfectly fitted up.

In succession follows the weighing room with its fine assay balances indicating up to the 1000th part of an English grain; also large bullion balances for weighing the silver in ingots, with the corresponding sets of stamping numbers and letters in steel for marking their weight and fineness. Next to this room is the assay laboratory proper, with its rows of miniature furnaces and muffles, for assaying and experimenting on the ores by the 'dry' methods; here, when in full work, up to 100 assays are made daily.

In the same range of buildings are the carpenters-shop and smithy, separate, for all sorts of repairs and work necessary about the establishment. Turning lathes, drilling machines, and the various tools necessary for mechanical engineering, may be seen about, for, being isolated as the works are, in the heart of the Andes, it is essential to have all these conveniences for any emergency which might arise.

The wood 'cancha' for piling the fuel for the furnaces is extensive and conveniently situate on a slight elevation above the reverberatory furnaces, for only in these is crude wood used. On a lower level, in a large open space, may be seen the immense, Noah's ark shaped, mounds of wood charcoal, as prepared for the blast furnaces. Each pile is 200 feet long by 18 feet wide and 12 feet high, composed chiefly of algarroba and retamo wood, laid longitudinally and evenly, with their ventilating flues beneath, so as to graduate the admission of atmospheric air, and thus govern the slow combustion of volatile gases in order to produce good charcoal. This branch of operations at Hilario requires almost as much study and care as any other, although apparently so simple and common-place. The wood when well charred, produces about 30 per cent. of hard, solid, shining charcoal, but if carelessly prepared the produce is much reduced, and the quality, as a caloric and reducing agent, seriously deteriorated. The mounds of wood are overlaid with long grass or reeds (totora) and covered with earth. The time necessary to burn one of these mounds varies from eight to fifteen days, and requires other fifteen days careful attention to extinguish.

The charcoal, delivered at the furnace house, costs 50 cents per quintal of 100^{lb}, made by contract with natives who cut and carry the wood from the camp, preferring to make it at the works; although apparently much more advantageous to them to make it where the wood is cut, and thus reduce the weight carried by 70 per cent.

The manager, however, prefers the charcoal made at the works, as in the first place it is produced under his immediate supervision, and is delivered almost intact, thereby avoiding the waste of a large percentage of small coal, totally useless, and highly injurious in the blast furnace.

The manufacture of firebricks, also forms a most important feature in the works; for were it necessary to import from Europe or Chile this indispensable and largely consumed article, the cost would be very great. Fire-clays abound in the neighbourhood, and by a careful selection, the mixture used at Hilario, affords a very excellent refractory brick, well suited for lead furnaces.

They are made by dry pressure, and some turned out during the present year at a cost of \$20 Bol. per thousand have been used in a blast furnace which ran 178 days without a single brick having to be replaced. The cost of best Stourbridge fire-bricks (Ruffords) imported from England and placed at Hilario, is about 40 cents each, or \$400 per thousand.

Beyond the immediate precincts of the works but forming part of the property are several houses, in which are general dry goods and provision

stores, baker's and butcher's shops, as also a café or hotel with billiard room, &c., rented to outsiders, and forming a most essential part of the establishment. When in full work, the concourse of miners, employés, ore vendors, muleteers, &c., which accumulate, is sometimes astonishing, and the occupiers of these houses make a fair business on their own account. Some distance from the works is a grass farm rented for the use of the animals required about the establishment.

The tariff for the purchase of silver ores, delivered at Hilario, is as follows (Bolivian currency):—

From	20	to	30	marks	per	cajon	of	64	quintals	\$3.50
Do.	31	to	40	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		4.00
Do.	41	to	50	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		4.75
Do.	51	to	60	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		5.50
Do.	61	to	70	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		6.00
Do.	71	to	80	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		6.25
Do.	81	to	90	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		6.50
Do.	91	to	100	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		6.75
Do.	101	to	150	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		7.25
Do.	151	to	200	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		7.50
Do.	201	to	300	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		7.75
Do.	301	to	400	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		7.87½
Do.	401	to	600	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		8.00
Do.	601	to	800	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		8.12½
Do.	801	to	1000	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		8.25
Do.	1000	upwards		do.	do.	do.	do.	do.		8.50

Per mark of pure silver.

The Messrs. Babié & Co.'s tariff differs considerably from the above as they base their calculations on a different system of working. They deduct, in the first place, from every cajon of fifty quintals fourteen marks of the silver contained therein, and pay for the remainder at the rate of \$10 bol. per mark of pure silver, according to assay.

MENDOZA.

Although this Province, during Spanish rule, was celebrated for its mineral wealth, and large quantities of silver were annually extracted from the ores produced in the Paramillo de Uspallata, it has so degenerated in metallurgical and mining enterprise, that were it not for a few energetic and persevering individuals, now toiling in the old mines of that district, it scarcely merits a passing notice in this work.

In the year 1865, the Paramillo mines were visited by the Government Inspector General (Major Rickard), and after a careful examination he resolved to make a few trials, by cutting in great depth, by means of adit levels, some of the celebrated old veins which produced rich ore in former times. Operations were commenced in company with Don Eustaquio Villanueva, a resident there, and up to the breaking out of the revolution in 1866, the workings produced fairly, although not yet into the workings of the Spaniards. Of course all was paralysed during the Federals' sway, and Mr. Villanueva was obliged, like many others, to seek refuge in Chili in order to save his throat and his purse. Whilst in the sister republic he formed the acquaintance of Señor Don Antonio del Canto, a Chilian miner and copper smelter of much experience, whom he induced to come over and examine the mines.

Early in 1867 operations were commenced by these men, following up the adits commenced in 1865, and re-establishing various old workings on other veins, including some copper deposits. Señor del Canto formed the project of smelting copper ores at the mines, and producing, by a proper admixture of the silver ores, an argentiferous regulus of copper, which commands a high price in Europe. This idea had the advantage, if realized, of utilizing the immense quantities of poor silver ores, which in their crude state are almost valueless; the high rates of freight, to an available market, rendering their export commercially impossible. His object was, therefore, to concentrate, by a series of fusions with copper ores, the silver contained in them, and thus, raised to a high standard, in small bulk, realize them with profit.

Many difficulties, natural to the district and country, generally presented themselves, but with praiseworthy determination, this industrious Chilian, we are glad to say, has so far, surmounted them. The weary Andine traveller is now relieved of the tiresome monotony presented by barren, desolate wastes, on his route to Chile, by the sudden and almost magical appearance of a well constructed copper furnace, with its slender chimney, towering some 40 feet above the mountain gorge, and the orderly, civilised aspect of a neat row of buildings perched on the side of a steep hill.

The great drawback of the undertaking is the scarcity of fuel; very little wood, or more properly brushwood, is to be found on the barren hills in the vicinity. But Mr. Canto has determined to utilise as an auxiliary fuel, the bituminous shales (erroneously termed coal by the natives) which abound within a few yards of his furnace grate. These hold about 25 to 30 per cent. of combustible matter, but the immense accumulation of ash

on the fire bars renders it a most troublesome and difficult matter to regulate the temperature of the furnace.

The result of the first trials, with this fuel *per se*, almost caused him to abandon in despair the idea of using it; but later on, necessity obliged him to revert to it again, and we are now informed that by using 50 per cent. of wood he can maintain a good temperature. He has to adopt two fire places for each furnace; the one permanent for wood, and the other moveable and further in, for the shale. Thus, when a grate full of this stuff has given off all its combustible matter, the bulk still remaining the same, he is obliged to remove the bars bodily, and discharge the useless slates into the ash-pit to make room for another charge.

He has already produced a fair amount of argentiferous copper regulus holding 150 marks, per cajon, or 368 ozs. silver to the ton, with from 30 to 40 per cent. of copper. This sells in Valparaiso (at the present time) for about \$1,200s. per cajon of sixty-four quintals, and consequently pays well.

The mining operations proper, have of late produced some very rich ore, in the old workings commenced in 1865 by Major Rickard, with the view of passing the unproductive blende bands (similar to those of Tontal) where they have cut silver ore in fair abundance, holding over a thousand ounces to the ton, thus bearing out the theory of expected riches, in depth, on the Tontal lodes which exist on the same range further north, and in somewhat similar formation.

We are authentically informed that Messrs. Canto and Villanueva have some \$20,000 Bol. worth of rich ore, now on surface, awaiting the opening of the Cumbre pass to remit to Chile. They have some 200 miners and others employed in the Paramillo, together with about twenty miners on a copper ore vein some thirty leagues south of Mendoza, whence they are obliged to bring the necessary fluxes for smelting, and form the regulus at the works in the Paramillo.

The capital invested in mining in Mendoza at the present day does not exceed \$50,000 Bol., but should the Paramillo works continue to improve, it is reasonable to expect a proportionate increase in speculative enterprise.

The Paramillo mines and works are situated about twenty-three leagues W.N.W. from Mendoza, on the high road to Chile, via Uspallata and La Cumbre pass. Their elevation above the sea is not less than 10,000 feet, and the cold, nearly the whole year round, is most intense.

The only potable water available, near the works, are two small springs, which are made the most of by accumulating their water in large tanks of solid masonry.

The south of the Province is said to be very rich in minerals, but the Indians take good care that their territory is not violated by the white man; hence the hidden treasures of the earth in those districts must remain to tempt the cupidity of a future and more adventurous race. A specimen from San Rafael, lately found, has proved on examination by Major Rickard, to be a new species: it holds 70 per cent. of copper combined with antimony.

Extensive deposits of an impure petroleum exist about seventy leagues from the city, south, but from their isolated position and want of roads, must for the present remain commercially worthless.

SAN LUIS.

The only mining industry, at present developed, in this Province, is gold digging and washing, if we except a puny attempt at copper smelting lately essayed by a German, who, we are told, tried to make an auriferous regulus of copper by direct fusion of carbonates, silicates and oxides of that metal, having (we suppose) forgotten the important sulphurous compound.

We have no authentic data as to the value of gold produced at the present day: but according to official returns corresponding to the year 1865, it appears that there were 137 miners employed on eight mines, and had produced 800 marks of gold, valued at \$89,600 bol.

We are informed that some very productive quartz veins are now being worked by a few Chilian mining adventurers, and with fair returns; but as they have only recently begun, no correct idea can yet be formed of the enterprise.

The gold usually produced from the washings is of a very inferior quality, rarely passing .750 pure gold in a thousand, the remaining .250 being mostly silver.

The mining districts are situate towards the north of the Province, distant from twelve to eighteen leagues from the capital.

In conclusion, there exists a vast field for speculative enterprise in the Cuyo Provinces, where the industry may be said to be yet in its infancy. And, with the bright prospects of national prosperity, advancement, civilization, and peace, which the Republic now enjoys, beneath the popular rule of her distinguished President, the fullest development of her hidden treasures is to be hoped and looked for.

His Excellency, *Governor Sarmiento*, initiated the pioneer mining enterprise in San Juan. His Excellency, *President Sarmiento*, is still in time to prune and train up the tender 'vine-shoot,' and by the genial sun of his protecting influence, make it bear the much desired fruit.

He has already, we believe, taken an important step in this direction, by naming a person to proceed in commission through all the provinces and report extensively on the mineral resources of the country. Once this report shall have been handed in to the Government, important projects will be laid before Congress, tending to the development, not only of the mining, but other staple industries of the Republic.

F. IGNACIO RICKARD, F.G.S., &c., &c.

Government Inspector General of Mines.

Hilario, San Juan, October 12, 1868.

THE SAN JUAN MINING AND SMELTING WORKS.

In September 1864 Messrs. F. S. Klappenbach commenced their operations in mines and the construction of the Argentino Smelting Works in the Mineral de la Huerta, distant thirty-five leagues from San Juan and seventy leagues from Cordova. Lat. 31.30, Long. 67.16 W. of Greenwich.

The establishment had been in course of construction since 1865, and now in the beginning of this year all the necessary works have been completed.

In its present condition 40 cajones or 100 tons of ore can be smelted in the establishment, per month.

The situation is one of the most favorable for the enterprise, being surrounded on all sides to a distance of twenty leagues by woods. Also there exist in the immediate neighbourhood, deposits of coal, iron, lime, salt, clay for firebricks, and other necessities.

The result of the smelting during the construction of the establishment has been as follows:—

In 1865,	....	....	1446	marks of pure silver.
In 1866,	....	....	4766	do., do., do.
In 1867,	....	....	6201	do., do., do.
In 1868,	....	....	6589	do., up to August.

and 3200 qq. of lead.

The produce of this year would have been considerably greater had it not been for the total paralyzation of the works for three months during the prevalence of the cholera.

The mines continue increasing in richness as they proceed, and the ores which are principally composed of «galenas» give even the highest ley of silver with small quantities of native silver.

The common ley of all the ores received and smelted in the establishment was up to 1866 fifty-five marks of pure silver to the cajon (or 50 qq.) of ore, equal to 176 oz. silver to one ton of ore.

In 1867, sixty-two marks pure silver, equal to 198 oz. to one ton of ore; and the ley has increased this year to seventy-six marks pure silver to the cajon, equal to 272 oz. of pure silver to one ton of ore.

Messrs. F. S. Klappenbach and Co. have lately changed their society into a company in Buenos Ayres called the «San Juan Mining and Smelting Co.,» capital \$230,000s., divided into 230 shares of \$1,000s. each.

The following gentlemen form the Board of Directors, &c.—

Constant Santa Maria,	President.
F. Wanklyn,	Director.
H. Ebbinghaus,	do.
H. Heberard,	do.
J. Aldao,	do.
A. Scharff,	Secretary.
F. S. Klappenbach,	Manager in S. Juan.

The future of the company is most promising, entering as it does into a field of action already explored and prepared for it, in which it will have but to reap the fruit.

The mines of La Huerta, whose richness and abundance are well recognised, only require hands to give brilliant results, giving new elements of greatness and prosperity to the country, and at the same time offering scope for the formation of new and greater undertakings.

CHAP. XIII.

HISTORY AND LITERATURE OF RIVER PLATE.

HISTORICAL RECORD.

- 1515—River Plate discovered by Juan Diaz de Solis.
- 1527—Sebastian Cabot explores the Paraná and Uruguay.
- 1530—Buenos Ayres founded, under invocation of the Holy Trinity.
- 1531—The fort and settlement destroyed by the Indians.
- 1535—Second foundation by Pedro de Mendoza: also destroyed.
- 1537—Asuncion del Paraguay founded by Ayola.
- 1544—Irala greatly extends the Spanish dominions.
- 1553—Santiago del Estero founded by Aguirre.
- 1555—Arrival of the first bishop, Francisco la Torre.
- 1559—Garcia de Mendoza founds Mendoza and San Juan.
- 1565—Villaroel founds Tucuman.
- 1573—Cabrera founds Cordova.
- 1573—Juan de Garay founds Santa Fè city.
- 1580—He marks out the city of Buenos Ayres, June 11th.
- 1582—Lerma founds Salta,
- 1588—Corrientes founded by Alonzo de Vera.
- 1591—Velazco founds Rioja, and, in 1592, Jujuy.
- 1596—Loyola founds San Luis.

- 1609—Jesuit missions of Paraguay founded by Padres Mazeta and Cataldini.
- 1622—Jesuit missions along the upper Uruguay.
- 1628—Paulista Indians carry off 60,000 captives from Misiones!
- 1680—Colonia founded by the Portuguese.
- 1726—Montevideo founded by Zavala, Governor of Buenos Ayres.
- 1730—Spain cedes Misiones to Portugal; Indian settlements broken up.
- 1767—Expulsion of the Jesuits; destruction of the Misiones!
- 1776—Viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres created, under Pedro de Zaballos.
- 1782—Census; Buenos Ayres territory, 170,832 inhabitants, and Paraguay 97,480.
- 1806—English invasion under General Beresford, who capitulates.
- 1807—Second invasion, under General Whitelocke, who also capitulates!
- 1808—Liniers named Vice-roy.
- 1810—Revolution of Buenos Ayres, May 25th.
- 1811—Belgrano invades Paraguay, and capitulates.
- 1812—He beats the Spaniards at Tucuman and Salta.
- 1814—Spanish garrison expelled from Montevideo.
- 1815—Campaign of Artigas in Banda Oriental.
- 1816—Declaration of Argentine Independence, at Tucumán, July 9th!
- 1818—General San Martin beats the Spaniards at Maypu, and emancipates Chile.
- 1821—He liberates Peru, and enters Lima in triumph.
- 1821—Banda Oriental annexed to Brazil.
- 1825—Revolution of Lavalleja and thirty-two others.
- 1825—Fructos Rivero beats the Brazilians at Rincon Gallinas.
- 1826—Buenos Ayres declares war against Brazil.
- 1826—Admiral Brown chastises the Brazilians.
- 1826—Rivadavia introduces many reforms.
- 1827—Alvear beats the Brazilians at Ituzaingo.
- 1828—Brazil gives up Banda Oriental, and makes peace!
- 1828—England guarantees the independence of Banda Oriental!
- 1830 to 1852—Civil wars, and tyranny of Rosas.
- 1852—Rosas overthrown by Urquiza.
- 1853—Urquiza expelled from Buenos Ayres.
- 1856—Introduction of gas.
- 1857—Western Railway inaugurated; the first in these countries!
- 1859—Battle of Cepeda; Buenos Ayres capitulates.
- 1860—Buenos Ayres re-enters the Argentine Confederation.
- 1861—Dreadful earthquake at Mendoza.

WORKS ON THE RIVER PLATE.

- 1861—Battle of Pavon: gained by General Mitre.
- 1862—Northern Railway works commenced.
- 1862—General Mitre unanimously elected President.
- 1863—Flores invades the Banda Oriental.
- 1863—Inauguration of Central Argentine Railway works at Rosario.
- 1864—Brazil invades the Banda Oriental.
- 1864—Southern Railway, to Chascomus, begun.
- 1865—Montevideo surrenders.
- 1865—Paraguay declares war.
- 1865—Boca and Ensenada Railway opened to Barracas.
- 1866—The Allied army (Argentines, Brazilians, and Orientals) invade Paraguay.
- 1866—Electric cable laid across the River Plate.
- 1867—Siege of Humaitá.
- 1867—Government-house at Buenos Ayres twice burned.
- 1868—General Flores murdered at Montevideo.
- 1868—Paraguayans abandon Humaitá.
- 1868—Water-works begun at Buenos Ayres.
- 1868—Don Domingo F. Sarmiento elected President.

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- Alvaro Nuñez's Commentaries. Madrid, 1560.
- History of Paraguay and La Plata. By Ruy Diaz de Guzman. 1573.
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- Muraturi's missions. (English translation). London, 1759.
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- Letters from Paraguay. By John C. Davie. London, 1805.
- Travels from Buenos Ayres to Lima, &c. By A. Z. Helms. London, 1806.
- Vice-Royalty of Buenos Ayres. By Sam. H. Wilcocke. London, 1807.
- Whitelocke's Expedition. By an Officer. London, 1808.
- Rio de la Plata. By Felix Azara. Paris, 1809.
- Dean Funes's History of Paraguay, &c. Buenos Ayres, 1816.
- Captain Head's Ride Across the Pampas. London, 1828.
- Humboldt's Travels in South America. Price, 12s. 6d. London, 1831.
- The Chaco and Rio Vermejo. By Arenales. Buenos Ayres, 1833.
- Castelnau's Expedition to South America. Paris, 1836.
- Plata—Staaten. By Kerst. Berlin.
- Robertson's Letters on Paraguay. Edinburgh, 1838.

- Pedro de Angelis's Records of Buenos Ayres. Buenos Ayres, 1839.
 Robertson's Francia's Reign of Terror. London, 1840.
 Id., Letters on South America. London, 1843.
 Researches by Fitzroy and Darwin. London, 1844.
 M'Cann's Adventures in the Pampas. Dublin, 1846.
 Colonel King's Souvenirs of Buenos Ayres. New York, 1847.
 D'Orbigny's Scientific Travels. Paris, 1847.
 Buenos Ayres, from the Conquest. By Sir W. Parish. London, 1852.
 Map of the Republic of Uruguay. By General Reyes. Montevideo, 1853.
 Mansfield's Paraguay and River Plate. London, 1854.
 La Province de Buenos Ayres. Par Heusser et Claraz. Zurich, 1854.
 Commander Page's La Plata. New York, 1856.
 Celebridades Argentinas. Buenos Ayres, 1859.
 La Confederation Argentine. By M. de Moussy. Paris, 1860.
 The Argentine Republic. By Colonel Du Graty. Brussels, 1861.
 Republic of Paraguay. By the same. Brussels, 1862.
 M'Coll's Guide to Montevideo. Price, 3s. 6d. London, 1862.
 Hinchcliff's South American Sketches. Price, 12s. 6d. London, 1862.
 Handbook to the River Plate. By M. G. & E. T. Mulhall. Buenos Ayres, 1863.
 Rickard's Journey Across the Andes. Price, 7s. 6d. London, 1863.
 Historia Argentina. By Dominguez. Buenos Ayres, 1864.
 Burmeister's Travels in the Provinces. Berlin, 1864.
 Alberdi on the Argentine Republic. Paris, 1864.
 Pillado's Guia de Buenos Ayres. Price, \$50 m^c. Buenos Ayres, 1864.
 Hutchinson's Argentine Gleanings. Price, 16s. 6d. London, 1866.
 Solveyra's Street Directory. Price, \$80 m^c. Buenos Ayres, 1866.
 Pallière's River Plate Album. 52 plates. \$500 m^c. Buenos Ayres, 1866.
 An Account of Paraguay. By Ch. Quentin. London, 1866.
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 States of the River Plate. By W. Latham. Price, 12s. London, 1867.
 The Argentine Alps. By Ross Johnston. London, 1867.
 Modern Paraguay. By M. Poucel. Paris, 1867.
 Map of City of Buenos Ayres. Topographical Department. \$500 m^c. Buenos Ayres, 1868.
 Random Sketches of Buenos Ayres. Edinburgh, 1868.
 Life in the Argentine Republic. By His Excellency President Sarmiento. Price, 8s. New York, 1868.
 Hadfield's Visit to La Plata. Price, 10s. 6d. London, 1868.

RIVER PLATE NEWSPAPERS.

Buenos Ayres.

The *Tribuna* was established in 1854 by Hector and Mariano Varela, sons of the distinguished writer D. Florencio Varela. It is the first paper in the River Plate, as regards influence and circulation. It appears every morning; subscription \$40 a month. Circulation 5,000.

The *Republica* was established in 1867 by Mr. Bernheim, and has been very successful as an experiment of a cheap press. It appears every morning; subscription, \$25 a month. Circulation, 4,000.

The *Nacion Argentina* was established in 1862, by Dr. José Maria Gutierrez, and was regarded as the official organ of General Mitre's administration. It appears every morning; subscription, \$40 a month. Circulation, 2,000.

The *Nacional* is the oldest paper in Buenos Ayres, having been established in 1853. Among its editors, at various times, have been General Mitre, Pres. Sarmiento, Dr. V. Sarsfield, Dr. Avellaneda, and other leading public men. It appears every evening, subscription \$40 a month. Circulation, 2,000.

The *Standard* was established in 1861 by Michael and Edward Thomas Mulhall, being the first English daily ever published in South America. It has three editions, the *Daily* for Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, the *Weekly* for the country departments, the *Fortnightly* for Europe: subscription for Daily \$30, for Weekly \$200 a year; Fortnightly, £1 a year. Circulation, 3,000.

The *Courrier de la Plata* was established by M. Legout in 1864, as the organ of the French population. It appears every morning; subscription, \$30 a month. Circulation, 1,200.

The *España*, a tri-weekly organ of the Spanish residents.

The *America*, a new daily paper; subscription, \$30.

The *Deutsche Zeitung* was established in 1866, its present editor being Mr. Napp. It appears every morning; subscription, \$30 a month.

The *Nazione Italiana* was established in 1868, by Dr. Bianchi. It appears every morning: subscription, \$30 a month.

The *Intereses Argentinos* is a paper of a religious character. It was established in 1868; subscription, \$30 a month.

The *Mosquito* is a weekly 'charivari,' illustrated. It was established in 1863; subscription, \$20 a month.

The *Revista de Buenos Ayres* is a valuable monthly periodical, established in 1862, by Drs. Navarro Viola and Quesada; subscription, \$30 a month.

The *Revista Argentina*, established in 1868, by José M. Estrada, is similar to the last. Appears fortnightly; subscriptions, \$30 a month.

Annales de la Sociedad Rural is the name of a monthly farming gazette, published by the Rural Society.

Montevideo.

The *Siglo* was first established in 1863, but suppressed by Government in the following year. It re-appeared in 1865, under M. Vaillant, and is now edited by Dr. Ramirez. It appears every morning; subscription \$2 a month. Circulation, 2,000.

The *Tribuna* was established by Colonel Bustamante in 1866, and is edited by Señor Tavolara. It is considered the official paper. It appears every morning; subscription, \$2 a month. Circulation, 1,500. There is an evening edition called the *Tribunita*.

The *Telegrafo Maritimo* is an old established shipping gazette, published every afternoon by D. Juan Buela.

The *Mercantil del Plata* was established in 1868, and appears every morning.

The *Orden* is a morning paper, edited by Sr. Gordillo.

The *Progreso* is a small evening paper, also of recent date.

Rosario.

The *Capital* is a daily paper, established in 1868.

The *Federalista*, also new, appears likewise daily.

Cordoba.

The *Eco de Cordoba* is the only daily paper in the interior.

Entre-Rios.

The *Uruguay* published at Concepcion, is edited by Sr. Victorica. It is considered General Urquiza's official organ, and appears daily.

Paraguay.

The *Semanario*, official organ, appears weekly at Asuncion.

The *Cabichuy*, is a weekly 'charivari.'

There are numerous small, weekly papers published in the provincial towns, viz.: at San Juan, Mendoza, Salta, Tucuman, Corrientes, Paraná, Santa Fé, Salto, Paysandú, Colonia, &c.

CHAP. XIV.

MONEYS, WEIGHTS, MEASURES, AND DISTANCES.

BUENOS AYRES.

In Buenos Ayres the basis of the currency is the paper dollar or «peso,» worth 2*d.* English, 25 «pesos» being equal to a hard dollar, such as used in North America. In all exchange operations, and the like, only specie is used, the sovereign being taken for \$4 90*c.* silver, or for \$122½ paper. The gold coins of England, North America, France, Spain, and Brazil are a legal tender throughout the Republic, at the following rates:—

	Silver.	Paper.
Sovereign,	\$4.90	\$122½
Twenty Francs,	3.90	97½
Chilian Condor,	9.25	231½
Twenty Milreis,	11.00	275
United States Eagle,	10.00	250
Doubloon,	16.00	400

In the upper provinces almost all transactions are carried on in Bolivian silver, the value of which slightly fluctuates at times. The Bolivian dollar averages about 3*s.* English, or twenty-one to the doubloon.

The weights and measures are—

1 Arrobe,	equal to	25℔	1 Vara, equal to	34 English inches.
4 Arrobes,	do.,	1 Quintal.	1 Cuadra, do.,	150 Varas.
20 Quintals,	do.,	1 Ton.	40 do., do.,	1 League.
80 Arrobes,	do.,	1 Ton.	6000 Varas, do.,	1 League.
2000℔,	do.,	1 Ton.	1 Sq. League, do.,	6500 Eng. acres.

It will be seen that a Spanish ton is 240℔ less than an English ton. The Spanish league is vulgarly taken to represent three miles, but it is fully three and a-quarter miles. The cuadra, in measuring land, is always 150 varas, but some of the provincial towns are built in cuadras or blocks of 100 or 120 varas. In calculating distances, twelve cuadras may be estimated as an English mile. The superficial cuadra covers about four acres, and is also called a «manzana:» there are 1,600 «manzanas» in a square league of land. A «suerte» of estancia usually measures one and a-half leagues long, by half a league wide, comprising 27,000,000 square varas: a square league of land contains 36,000,000 varas.

MONTEVIDEO.

Before the suspension of specie payments, 1867, the currency was fixed on the basis of a dollar worth 52*d.* English, or 4 per cent. more than the North American dollar. At present, October 1868, the currency is at a discount of 15 per cent.; but the former value of the currency, in relation with foreign currency, was—

	Montevidean \$.		Montevidean \$.
Mexican dollar,	.... 0.96	Twenty Milreis,	.... 10.56
Sovereign,	.... 4.70	United States Eagle,	.... 9.60
Twenty Francs,	.... 3.74	Doubloon,	.... 15.60
Chilian Condor,	.... 8.88		

The weights and measures are the same as in Buenos Ayres; but the cuadras in the city are only 100 varas square. The French metrical system is being gradually introduced, and building lots are sometimes sold by the metre, which is three inches longer than an English yard. In measuring land the cuadra is fixed at 100 varas, so that a league is said to be sixty cuadras long, and a superficial league to contain 3,600 manzanas: of course the league is exactly the same length as in Buenos Ayres.

PARAGUAY.

Before the war the currency of the country consisted partly of doubloons and partly paper dollars, all accounts being payable by law in half and half. The paper dollar, in 1864, was worth about half-a-crown English, or

twenty-five to the doubloon; say 64 cents. silver. No foreign coin had circulation in the country.

The table of weights is the same as in Buenos Ayres. The land measure is very different—

1 League, equal to 5,000 Varas.	1 Manzana, equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ Eng. acres.
1 Cuerda, do., 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ do.	1 Sq. League, do., 25,000,000 sq. v.
1 League, do., 60 Cuerdas.	1 Sq. League, do., 4,500 acres
1 Sq. League, do., 3,600 manzanas.	

TABLE OF DISTANCES FROM BUENOS AYRES.

	Spanish Leagues.		Spanish Leagues.
London,	2,500	Cape San Roque,	920
Lisbon,	2,200	Rio Grandé do Sul	150
Cape Verde,	1,550	Montevideo,	40
Pernambuco,	850	Bahia Blanca,	200
Bahia,	700	Welsh Colony,	350
Rio Janeiro,	450	Falkland Islands,	450
New York,	2,300	Magellan's Straits,	600
St. Thomas,	1,800	Cape Horn,	680
Pará,	1,250		

River Paraná.

Rosario (S. Fé)	75	Esquina,	180
Santa Fé,	117	Goya,	210
Paraná,	115	Bella Vista,	230
Californian Colony,	150	Corrientes,	260
La Paz,	160		

River Paraguay.

Tres Bocas,	265	Salvador,	420
Humaytá,	275	Rio Appa, mouth,	440
Rio Vermejo, mouth,	278	Siete Puntas,	450
Villa Pilar,	280	Pap de Azucar,	460
Tebiquary, mouth,	290	Fort Olympe,	475
Villa Franca,	300	Rio Negro, mouth,	500
Villa Oliva,	315	Fort Coimbra,	510
Asuncion,	340	Albuquerque,	530
Rosario,	365	Curumbá,	555
San Pedro,	380	Cuyabá,	640
Concepcion,	400		

Upper Paraná.

Paso la Patria,	270	Falls of Curitiba,	400
Falls of Apipé,	310	Rio Tacuari, mouth,	425
Tranquera de Loreto,	315	Salto de Guayra,	450
Itapua & Candelaria,	335		

River Uruguay.

Fray Bentos,	20	Santa Rosa,	140
Rio Negro, mouth,	40	Uruguayana,	160
Guauguaychú,	50	La Cruz,	180
Concepcion,	70	Itaqui,	182
Paysandú,	80	Santo Tomé,	207
Concordia,	108	San Borja,	208
Salto,	110		

Upper Provinces.

Frayle Muerto,	100	Hilario works,	255
Rio Cuarto,	130	Rioja,	250
Cordoba,	150	Catamarca,	260
San Luis,	170	Tucuman,	270
Mendoza,	225	Santiago del Estero,	220
The Andes,	240	Salta,	310
San Juan,	245	Junuy,	330
Klappenbach's mines,	270	Oran, Rio Vermejo,	350

Province of Buenos Ayres.

<i>South.</i>			
Cañuelas,	11	Tapalquen,	48
San Vicente,	10	Sierra Quillalanquen,	62
Lobos,	18	Azul,	55
Navarro,	17	Arroyo Chapaleofú,	52
Guardia Monte,	19	Mar Chiquita,	66
Ranchos,	20	Sierra Tinta,	69
Chascomus,	24	Cinco Lomas,	70
25 de Mayo,	35	Loberia,	65
Paso de Rocha,	27	Cape Corrientes,	78
Las Flores,	32	Laguna los Padres,	74
Dolores,	39	Necochea,	80
Ensenada,	10	Arroyo Pillahuínco,	90
Magdalena,	19	Tres Arroyos,	98
Tuyu,	46	Sierra La Ventana,	103
Montes Grandes,	59	Bahia Blanca,	115
Tandil,	60		

North.

Pilar,	10
Capilla,	14
Zarate,	16
Giles,	20
San Antonio,	21
Baradero,	27
San Pedro,	31
Obligado,	35
Las Hermanas,	39
Ramallo,	44
San Nicolas,	45

Cepeda,	43
Arroyo Medio,	46
Arroyo Pavon,	48
Arrecifes,	33
Fortin Areco,	27
Salto,	34
Pergamino,	42
Rojas,	43
Fort Chañar,	56
Fort Melincué,	60
India Muerta,	61

West.

Rodriguez,	10
Lujan,	13
Mercedes,	20
Freyre,	25
Gorostiaga,	28
Chivilcoy,	31
Bragado,	39

Chacabuco,	36
Junin,	45
Fort Rauch,	44
Nueve de Julio,	48
Tigre Muerto,	55
Fort Vallimanca,	47
Saladillo,	33

METEOROLOGICAL.

The following are the results of meteorological observations, taken by the aid of one of Messrs. Negretti & Zambra's minimum and maximum self-registering thermometers (Fahrenheit), exposed in the shade during the month of March at Rosario, from April to June at Montevideo, and from July to September at Buenos Ayres:—

	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.
Monthly range, ..	51	26	25	28	26	25	18
Greatest diurnal range, ..	43	24	18	21	14	14	9
Average do., do., ..	20	10	9	7	9	7	5
Highest maximum, ..	98	77	71	72	65	66	63
Lowest do., ..	68	57	55	49	48	49	52
Average do., ..	80	68	63	59	54	58	58
Highest minimum, ..	77	67	61	62	50	61	59
Lowest do., ..	47	51	46	44	39	41	45
Average do., ..	64	58	54	51	44	51	53
Mean averages, ..	72	63	59	55	49	54	56

CHAP. XV.

ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS.

WHO TO COME, AND WHO TO STAY AT HOME.

THE River Plate offers a fine field for immigrants, as is proved by the thousands of Europeans here who have gained fortune and position during the last twenty years. Yet it sometimes happens that individuals come out to Buenos Ayres, throwing up a good livelihood, and being ignorant of the language and unwilling at first to «rough it,» grow disgusted and return to England sadder but not wiser men.* It is, therefore, absolutely necessary to bear in mind the classes of emigrants most needed in a new country :—

1st. Farm servants—unmarried men, of strong constitutions, sober, steady, accustomed to country life, and able to stand rain and sun. Their occupation here would be the care of sheep, and as our flocks make up a total of sixty millions, doubling every four years, at least twenty thousand of this class will find immediate employment at £20 per annum, being found in house, provisions, horses, &c. After two or three years, they usually get a flock of sheep with third profits, and ultimately become independent farmers.

2nd. Cooks and housemaids—unmarried women of good conduct and some experience in house-keeping, although ignorant of Spanish, are much in request. Five hundred would at once get situations in native or foreign families, at £25 to £35 per annum. They often get married to the above class of sheepfarmers.

3rd. Young married couples—when unencumbered with family, this class is in greater demand than any other, and always preferred, on the

ground of steadiness. The husband must act either as sheep-peon or gardener, and the wife as cook. If they hire on an estancia in Buenos Ayres their joint wages may be calculated at £45 per annum, but if they go to Banda Oriental, Entre-Rios, or the other Provinces, they will earn £80.

4th. Speculators—we want some wide-awake, practical men, possessing money and experience. We have no manufactures in the River Plate. We want a paper mill, a woollen manufactory, omnibuses to ply through the city, pleasure gardens, an English theatre, and fifty other enterprises which would handsomely pay the originators.

The above are the classes actually wanted, but some others might possibly better themselves by coming hither. For instance, there is room for half-a-dozen English physicians in the 'camp'; a few mechanics might get good wages in the interior; printers are always wanted in Buenos Ayres; some sober coachmen may also come out, and a good teacher of music or languages will find plenty to do.

It may be needful to specify the classes not wanted—

1st. Lawyers, land surveyors, newspaper reporters, and graduates of universities. The first two are debarred from practising, until they go through a course of studies in the universities of these countries and take out degrees here. This involves three years, and is not worth the trouble. Reporters, if even they knew Spanish, would get nothing to do, there being no meetings, law-trials, lectures, &c., to report. Graduates are proverbially useless, for a man may have Homer and Virgil by heart, and be obliged to sell oranges for a living.

2nd. Clerks and shop assistants. Some of this class come out to seek their fortune and generally return. They are ignorant of Spanish, and therefore both helpless and useless: moreover the English houses bring out their own clerks, and look with distrust on strangers. Half a dozen youths understanding Spanish and their business, might fall into a drapery or grocery, at £60 a year. As a class, however, they are not wanted.

3rd. Unemployed gentlemen. If these men have sufficient money to buy a flock of sheep, it is likely they will get disgusted, and sell out at a loss. If they have not, they are out of element, not willing to work hard, and desiring some lucrative post which they would be unable to fill.

4th. Tradesmen with large families. Most handicrafts being exercised by French, Italian, or Spanish operatives, it is not likely an English tailor, bootmaker or carpenter would find wages so much better than at home, comparatively with the value of money in both countries, as to be worth

the change. If he has a few hundred pounds, to start for himself, he may possibly get on, but if he has a large family and no ready money, he will find himself much worse than at home.

5th. Fast young men. If there were a law prohibiting the importation of this class, it would be a service to the country and to themselves. The British Hospital and Policia can tell of many locked up for drunkenness, and finally dying in «delirium tremens,» for this climate cuts them off with extraordinary rapidity.

We have now pointed out distinctly the classes which are sure to get on well; and also those which must come here only to be sadly disappointed. If the immigrant has little self conceit, and a good temper, he will find friends everywhere. If strictly sober and honest, he is sure to thrive. It is perfectly immaterial whether he be Catholic or Protestant. A good education is not virtually a disadvantage. The climate is the finest on earth, and persons who come out young speedily accustom themselves. The distance from Europe is very great, and those who cast their fortunes here have little chance of seeing the Old World again, not one in a hundred ever returning. Still the country has so many advantages, and the people are in general so kind, that «home sickness» is hardly known.

STEAM SERVICE TO THE RIVER PLATE.

A few years ago there was but one line of steamers plying to Brazil and the River Plate, viz.: the Royal Mail from Southampton. At present there are seven lines, viz.: the Southampton, Liverpool (2), London, Bordeaux, Marseilles, and New York steamboat services.

1. The Royal Mail Company despatch a steamer on the morning of the 9th of every month, from Southampton, or on the 10th if the previous day be Sunday. This line has been running over twenty years: the vessels are large and commodious. Fares—1st class, £35 and upwards: return tickets, available for twelve months, issued at a fare and a-half; 2nd class, £25, good accommodation; but this class is not allowed to mix with the first or go on the quarter-deck. Bed, bedding, plate, and utensils provided for both classes. A reduction of one-sixth is allowed for families of four or more persons travelling first-class. The steamer calls at Lisbon, Cape Verds, Bahia, and Pernambuco: at Rio Janeyro passengers for the River Plate are transhipped to the Arno. The voyage occupies thirty-one days to Montevideo, and thirty-two to Buenos Ayres. For regulations about luggage, &c., see the company's pamphlet, given gratis on application, either personally or by letter, to Captain Vincent, Superintendent, Southampton; or, to J. M. Lloyd, Esq., 55 Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

2. The *Mensageries Imperiales*, or French mail line from Bordeaux, established in 1861, also carry a monthly mail, leaving Bordeaux on the 25th, and making the voyage in the same number of days as the Southampton line. At Rio Janeyro passengers are in like manner transhipped to the Aunis for the River Plate. Few Englishmen come by this line, but if a person wishes to visit Paris *«en passant»* he can reach Bordeaux from London in two days. The vessels call at Lisbon, Goree, Bahia, Pernambuco, and Rio Janeyro: they are not so large as the Royal Mail Steamers. First cabin, including wine, £50. Second cabin, £20. Office—Messrs. Fletcher & Co., Liverpool, and Messrs. Horne, 4 Moorgate St., London.

3. The Liverpool and River Plate Mail Company despatch a steamer from Liverpool on the 20th of each month, calling at Lisbon, Bahia, and Rio Janeyro, and coming on to the River Plate without any transhipment of passengers: they usually make the passage in twenty-eight days. The treatment and accommodation on board are excellent. The line was established in 1863, and in 1868 obtained a mail charter from the British Government. First cabin, £35. Second cabin, £25. Steerage, £16: the 1st and 2nd classes are found in everything; steerage passengers get rations on the emigration dietary scale. Agents, Messrs. Lamport and Holt, 21 Water St., and Messrs. Wright & Kelso, 7 Tower buildings, Water St., Liverpool. Mr. Lloyd of the latter firm is Argentine Vice-Consul, and will give any information required. The Company's steamers are the following: Tycho Brahe, 1858 tons; Hipparchus, 1840; Kepler, 1499; Galileo, 1525; Newton, 1074; Ptolemy, 1115; Halley, 1347; Donati, 1182; Humboldt, 1346; Cassini, 836; Flamsteed, 1376; Copernicus, 1397; Saladin, 510; Ironsides, 691; La Plata, 1393; La Place, 1194. Reduction for families. Return-ticket, for twelve months, at a fare and a-half.

4. The New York and Brazilian Mail Company despatch a monthly steamer from New York, which calls at St. Thomas's, Pará, Pernambuco, and Bahia, arriving at Rio Janeyro in twenty-four days. The line was established in 1866, and has a subsidy from the American and Brazilian Governments. It is proposed to have a branch line to the River Plate. First class from New York to Rio, £50.

5. The London, Belgium, Brazil and River Plate Mail Company despatch a steamer from London, with English mails, which takes the Belgian mails at Antwerp, and receives passengers for South America at Falmouth on the 3rd of each month. The line was started by Messrs. Tait Brothers, of Limerick, in 1867, and has some fine new steamers with superior accommodation. The City of Rio Janeyro has made one of the quickest passages to Brazil on

record : the other vessels are—the City of Limerick, City of Brussels, and City of Buenos Ayres. The departures are—from London, 28th ; Antwerp, 1st ; Falmouth, 3rd ; arriving at Rio Janeyro in about twenty days, and proceeding to the River Plate without transshipping passengers. Fares, £35, £25, and £16, first and second classes found in everything : the usual reduction for families ; return tickets at a fare and a-half. Agents—London, Managing owners, Messrs. Tait & Co. ; Brokers, A. Howden & Co. Antwerp, Consignee, B. de Vleeshouwer ; Broker, E. I. Isenbaert. Rio Janeyro, Consignee, Thomas Holcombe, Esq. ; Broker—Montevideo, Consignees, Messrs. Zimmerman, Fair & Co. ; Broker, J. R. Schwartz. Buenos Ayres, Consignee, Messrs. Zimmerman, Fair & Co. ; Brokers, Woodgate Brothers.

6. The Pacific Navigation Company despatch a steamer from Liverpool on the 19th of every alternate month, for Valparaiso, calling at Rio Janeiro and Montevideo ; the voyage to the River Plate is made in twenty-four days, the vessels being constructed for great speed. The Company was established in 1868, and has a subsidy from the Chilian Government.

7. The Marseilles line, called «Société de Transports Maritimes,» despatches a monthly steamer from Genoa, calling at Marseilles, Gibraltar, Bahia and Rio Janeyro, and making the voyage to Montevideo in twenty-eight days. The vessels are large and well appointed, viz. : the Bourgogne, Picardie, Poitou, &c., each 3.000 tons register. Fares : from Genoa. £50, £33, £16—from Marseilles or Gibraltar, £48, £31, and £16. Agents in Buenos Ayres, Messrs. Bonnemason & Heydecker, Calle Bolivar.

There are also sailing vessels, of about 300 tons register, always on the berth at London or Liverpool, to receive cargo and passengers for Montevideo and Buenos Ayres. The passenger fare is usually £13, the accommodation pretty good, and the voyage is made in about sixty days. For particulars apply to Messrs. Nuttall, Mors & Co., Liverpool ; or to Messrs. Howden & Sons, 19 Birch Lane, London.

No passport is required on landing in the River Plate, but if the emigrant has no friends here, it would be well for him to bring a certificate of baptism or other document shewing his name and nationality. In receiving letters at the Post-office, taking out a marriage license, receiving money from home, &c. positive proof of identity is of course required, and as passage tickets are often lost, and letters of introduction only used for the moment, an official document is more valuable. Some persons procure a letter from the Foreign Office to our diplomatic or consular representatives, but it is hardly worth the trouble, and leads, at best, to an invitation to dinner.

As to letters of introduction they are useful, and as many may be brought as choice may dictate. But let it not be supposed that they will always avail to procure a situation for the bearer. Merchants are often «bored» by a dozen such recommendations, on the arrival of the packet. Irish emigrants should invariably bring letters to the head of their countrymen here, V. Rev. Canon Fahy.

Packing up the trunk is a serious consideration: we advise the reader to provide himself with an abundant supply of clothing and comforts, not only for the voyage, but because they cost here three times their value in England, and may be introduced duty free. They must be bona-fide for personal use and marked with the owner's name, to avoid suspicion of smuggling. A box of kid gloves or roll of silk would be exposed to Custom-house seizure, but shirts and clothing (marked) incur no risk. A gun or revolver, saddle and equipments should not be omitted, and if not required afterwards may be sold at a profit; but no more than one is permitted, and we caution passengers against the false idea of bringing out boots, fire-arms, &c., on speculation. A dozen linen suits will be found useful on board when near the tropics, and always come in well for summer wear here.

LETTERS OF CREDIT.

We should advise emigrants who intend bringing money with them, to do so by means of a Letter of Credit. This may easily be obtained through almost every Bank in England and Scotland, on the London and River Plate, or Mauá Banks of this city, and Montevideo (B. Oriental). And in Ireland from any of the various branches of the National Bank of Ireland which also grants Letters of Credit on the above Banks. The agents in Buenos Ayres of the National Bank are Messrs. Wanklyn & Co.

The above Credits may be obtained for a trifling charge for commission, if the amount be under £500; and if over that sum, we believe free of any charge whatever. The party taking a Letter of Credit will always receive a duplicate, which he should leave at home with his friends in case of his losing the original, or the ship being lost.

This course we can with confidence recommend to our friends as being the best and safest, and one that does not in any way involve the possibility of a loss, whilst by the old and foolish system of carrying gold about the person a man runs the risk of losing it, or being robbed, and if the ship is lost for a certainty loses his money also. Whereas by the Letter of Credit system even should the ship be lost, his friends at home have stil

got the duplicate Letter of Credit, by which they can obtain the money deposited.

INSTRUCTIONS ON LANDING.

Passengers by the mail-steamers are usually landed in a little steamboat, but failing this it will be necessary to take a whaleboat (M'Lean's are the best), and be sure to bargain with the boatman before leaving the ship: his charge will depend on the weather, say \$20 to \$50 a head. On no account let any of your luggage be separated from you, or you may lose it. Reaching the mole you will be assailed by an impetuous gang of porters; pick out one of them, count for him the number of your trunks, and let him get others to help him if he like: he will charge probably \$5 or \$10 a trunk to take them to your hotel. At the Resguardo, near the end of the mole, you will have to open your trunk for examination; if you do so with good grace you will find the officials most polite and anxious to save you any trouble. If you have cigars, silks, jewellery, or fire-arms, you had better declare the same. On arriving at your hotel if you have any difficulty with the porters about your luggage, ask the landlord to settle with them. You will find the hotels very cheap and good, the charge for bed and board not exceeding eight shillings a day, unless you take a sitting room, which you will find very dear. Place your card with the number of your room in the frame at the stair's foot. Lock your room whenever you go out, leaving the key with the porter: lock it also at night. If any of your trunks have been detained at the Resguardo or sent to the Custom-house, lose no time to employ Mr. Hill, of 76 Calle Defensa, or some other respectable broker, to clear them for you: the cost will be trifling, unless duties be enforced, in which case they will amount to 23 per cent. on the value of the article.

The change of climate will necessarily oblige you to be careful as to your manner of living. Rise early, take a cold bath every morning, beware of walking about much in the sun, and remember that there are frequent changes of temperature even in one day. Flannel singlets, light clothing and a straw hat are advisable in summer months. At all seasons the mornings are frequently cold, necessitating warm clothing. Be very careful of a cut finger or other trifling wound, which must be kept closely bandaged: it is sometimes very hard to heal a small cut, if the air get into it, and we have unfortunately many cases of lockjaw from a mere scratch not attended to. It is also very bad to drink much cold water, which acts as a purgative on strangers. The most wholesome drink at breakfast or dinner is French wine, for which no charge is made in the hotels. Brandy is too hot for the climate, and must only be taken with extreme moderation:

«delirium tremens,» from the intemperate use of spirits, results sooner in this than in any other country. The meat of the country is good and wholesome, except pork, which you had better avoid, seeing the objectionable manner of rearing swine in Buenos Ayres. In the hotels the usual hour for breakfast is 9 A.M. and dinner 5 P.M. As soon as convenient after arrival you may call at the *Standard* office, 74 Calle Belgrano, where the editors will gladly give you any information or advice in their power. Letters from home may also be directed to their care free of charge. Poor emigrants looking for employment can have advertisements inserted gratis.

New arrivals should be careful about roaming through the streets after 11 P.M., although the city is more quiet and orderly than most large towns. Above all things beware of intoxication, and keep out of the *Policia*. In the coffee-houses, never make any offensive remarks about the country; it would be ill-breeding, and many of those around you are sure to understand English. If you meet a religious procession either turn into the next street, or take off your hat and stand till it passes by. If anyone ask you for a light for his cigar, present yours to him politely. Remember always that politeness and equality are the rule of the country, and act up to it.

CHAP. XVI.

ITINERARIES FROM ENGLAND AND NEW YORK.

ENGLAND TO BUENOS AYRES.

THE voyage is usually made in thirty days, the distance being about 7,800 statute miles. The outset is often disagreeable, in crossing the Bay of Biscay, but the rest of the voyage is generally delightful, and rough weather is exceedingly rare between Lisbon and Rio Janeyro.

Lisbon is reached in four days from England. The entrance to the Tagus is highly picturesque. Rounding the Rock of Lisbon, and crossing the bar, we get a distant view of Belen, the hills around being covered with a multitude of windmills. On the right is seen a massive building, the Lazaretto; on the left is Fort Julian, a relic of the Moorish epoch. Abreast of Belen we are hailed by the port officials, after which we are allowed to proceed. The panorama of the city becomes every moment more attractive; a crowd of steamers, war-vessels and shipping, line the quays. We land at the Custom-house, in the Terreyro do Paço, or Black-horse Square. The streets of the new town are handsome and spacious, with massive piles of building in regular blocks of about a hundred yards square; the houses are six or seven stories high, and all built of stone. The three principal streets, Rua Aurea, Rua Augusta, and Rua da Prata, run parallel. This was the scene of the earthquake of 1755, when most of the old town, with 40,000 inhabitants, was destroyed. The Marquis de Pombal rebuilt the city. He was Minister to King José I., whose equestrian statue gives name to the Plaza, and the effigy of the Minister is seen in a bronze medallion on the pedestal. The east and west sides of the Plaza are occupied by public departments. The south is bounded by the river, and on the north a triumphal arch gives access to the city.

Englishmen usually stop at the Hotel Braganza, which surmounts one of the seven hills, and is situated close to the Opera-house, in the aristocratic quarter: charge, eight shillings a day. The Rocio terminates the lower town built by Pombal and is flanked on two sides by the Dóna Maria theatre and St. Domingo church. In the centre a monument is being erected to Don Pedro I., who abdicated the throne of Brazil to return to the mother country. In public monuments, plazas, fountains, &c., the city abounds. It may give some idea of Lisbon to say that it comprises 355 streets, 281 travessas or causeways, 12 plazas, 52 plazuelas, 5 public parks, 6 theatres, 200 churches, and 36 public fountains. It contains over 300,000 inhabitants, and enjoys a privileged climate. The traveller should visit the Cathedral, the Abbey of Belen, the Paseo da Estrella, the aqueduct, and the Opera-house. In the coffee-houses may be had capital port-wine at two shillings a bottle. The English book-store is in Rua do Carmo. English Vice-Consul, Jeremiah Meagher. Chaplain, Rev. T. K. Brown. Messrs. Knowles & Co, are agents for the Royal Mail Company, and Messrs. Tait's London line, and the Liverpool and River Plate Company, have also agencies. If the steamer delay more than one day the traveller should drive out to Cintra, 17 miles, one of the most charming spots in the universe. There is now railway communication from Lisbon to Paris, and some people come this way, to avoid the Bay of Biscay. The route is this—Paris to Bordeaux, 12 hours; Bordeaux to Madrid, 20 hours; Madrid to Badajoz, 16 hours; Badajoz to Lisbon, 15 hours. Between Madrid and Lisbon the traveller had better carry provisions.

Four days from Lisbon we pass the Canary Islands, the Peak of Teneriffe rising to a height of 11,000 feet, and being visible at a great distance. Formerly the steamers called here; but the over-zealous quarantine regulations caused the coaling-station to be transferred to San Vicente. The climate of the Canaries is most salubrious, and the scenery interesting: the islands belong to Spain, being governed by a Captain-General, and are sometimes used as a place of exile for turbulent politicians. The late Marshal O'Donnell was born here. The islands produce good wine and fruits: the inhabitants are whites. Lord Nelson fought one of his battles here. Teneriffe is a station on the Cadiz and Havana line of steamers.

When the mail steamers called at Madeira, this was a very pleasant halt for passengers. The island is now sometimes sighted, and can be clearly seen at sixty miles distance: there are three peaks above the town of Funchal, which are of considerable elevation.

The Cape Verde Islands are made in seven days from Lisbon. San Antonio is fertile and mountainous. «Bird Rock» is a conical piece of

granite, tenanted by sea-gulls; and opposite to it is the wretched island of St. Vincent. This is certainly the most barren spot on the world's surface: sundry bold ranges of mountains, but not a particle of vegetation; in its whole extent there is not a blade of grass, not a weed. Two palm-trees near the barrack, and two orange trees on the beach, are sustained in some miraculous manner. The port is spacious and secure; on one side a small fort flying the Portuguese flag, overlooks the shipping; on another, the summit of an adjacent mountain bears a striking resemblance to the head of Washington. Mr. Miller, the English Consul, has a cottage a little above the town, which is a straggling collection of about a hundred houses, built of stone, and a neat little church. There is an English cemetery up the hill-side, and on the beach is the grave of an English colonel's wife, who died returning from India. The water is so clear and blue that the natives will dive for a shilling, and catch it before it reaches the bottom. the boatmen sell some pretty mats and inlaid work-boxes, which come from Madeira. There is also a good supply of fruit from the island of San Antonio, whose rugged and lofty outline is seen a few miles westward. The garrison of the place consists of a company of Portuguese soldiers: the natives are all black, and occupy themselves in coaling the steamers.

From St. Vincent to the Brazils the sea is always as smooth as a mill-pond, and the heat is of course intense, crossing the Line. You see myriads of flying-fish, and now and then a shark or a shoal of porpoises, or the tiny little nautilus with sail before the wind (sailors call it the Portuguese man-of-war). At night the sea is phosphorescent; the moon shines with peculiar brilliancy, and the constellation of the Southern Cross reminds us that we are in a new hemisphere. Passengers should beware of catching cold, and on no account sleep on deck. If they continue their usual morning bath they will find it very relaxing, the sea-water being actually warmer than the atmosphere.

Fernando Noronha is sighted on the seventh day from St. Vincent. It is a small rocky island, used by the Brazilians as a penal settlement, and has a light-house. As we approach the coast of Brazil we see numbers of birds, and the first land visible is Cape San Roque, a bold headland, 200 miles north of Pernambuco.

Pernambuco is the worst port in the world. The mail steamers lie out far to sea, and there is a nasty reef near the shore. When the weather is at all rough, passengers are lowered over the side in an arm chair. The boats are strong, buoyant, and well-manned, but there are sometimes sudden changes in the weather, especially about 1 P.M., which render it both difficult and dangerous for passengers to return aboard. Bathers had better

look out, here, for sharks, which are very numerous. The city has about 100,000 inhabitants, including a few English, and does a great business with England and other countries, in coffee, cotton, &c. It is built on three or four islands, and a fine iron bridge was put up recently, to connect the chief business quarters. A pretty drive may be taken to Olinda: the cab fare is ten milreis (fifteen shillings) for two persons. Royal Mail Company agents, Messrs. Adamson, Howie & Co. British Consul, B. W. Doyle. Vice-Consul, Alexander Gollan. Chaplain, Rev. Charles A. Austin.

From Pernambuco to Bahia the voyage occupies thirty-six hours. The overland journey would take as many days, there being no road through the forests. The distance is under 500 miles. In these waters we meet a number of «catamarans,» the strangest kind of craft ever seen; they sometimes venture over 100 miles from the shore.

Bahia, or San Salvador, is the oldest city in Brazil, and next in importance after the metropolis. The bay is very fine, the vegetation luxuriant; the city stretches along a hill-side, with numerous churches and other massive buildings. The suburb called Victoria is the residence of the English merchants, embowered in gardens, and enjoying the fresh breeze from the Atlantic. On landing the traveller finds a host of palanquins ready to carry him up the hill, but these conveyances, which are borne by two negroes, look so greasy that some people prefer walking. The heat is so great that the best plan is to take a coach and four mules. Drive first to the Botanical Gardens, whence a splendid view is obtained. Then see the old Jesuit cathedral, the Government-house, railway terminus, and post-office: if you have time to drive to the head of the bay, near the Portuguese hospital, it will repay the trouble. More than three-fourths of the inhabitants are colored, and the city is so filthy that foul odours assail one on all sides. There is an excellent coffee-house opposite the post-office. Mail Packet agents, Wilson, Hett & Co. British Consul, John Morgan. Chaplain, Rev. Charles G. Nicolay. There is an English cricket club here. Bahia boasts the largest oranges and the fattest black women in South America.

Rio Janeyro is about 800 miles from Bahia, and the voyage takes nearly three days. The entrance to the Bay of Rio is the grandest picture that ever delighted the eye of man, grand, solemn, and imposing. A chain of wild and dark-colored mountains forms the coast-line; right a-head of us the land recedes, discovering, as we approach, two rocky islets, one of them crowned by a light-house. Presently we begin to descry houses perched here and there among the hills, while the peaks of Gabia, Tijuca, Corcovado, and the Sugar-loaf, frown upon us in over-awing majesty.

At every instant, as the steamer steadily advances into the bay, the scene changes like a kaleidoscope, the mountains seem to move one behind the other, and to change entirely in shape, till we get in full view of the city, with the Organ Mountains in the back-ground, and the middle distance occupied by sundry islands bristling with batteries.

The Sugar-loaf is perhaps the most striking feature in the picture, and rises to a height (almost precipitous) of 3,200 feet: an American lady some years ago climbed to the top. Gabia looks as if surrounded by a castellated building. The peak of Santa Cruz is on the right of the bay, overlooking a fort of granite walls mounting a hundred guns. We pass the British and French flagships, and several other war-vessels. All the navies in the world might ride at anchor in this land-locked bay. Small steamboats are plying in all directions, to the various suburbs along the water-line.

The steamer comes to her moorings alongside Coal Island: the island was formerly used for rearing young slaves. The boatmen here are mostly thorough negroes. The landing place is close to the market, a bustling place, with a very incongruous assemblage. In coming ashore we notice the Arsenal, where some of the ironclads were built for the Paraguayan war. Rio Janeiro is wholly different from any other city: it has nothing South American about it, and nowise resembles the large towns you see in France or Italy. The houses are very high, the streets are as narrow as those of Genoa, and the shops very small, but rich. The vehicles are drawn by mules, and in some streets you have to step into a shop doorway when a coach passes. Black servants in livery abound. The Alfandaga or Custom-house is a fine building. The best hotel is «McDowell's Exchange Hotel»: the same owner has a hotel at Petropolis, a charming place about forty miles up the country. The natives are very polite and understand a person talking Spanish, although their language is Portuguese. The Plaza Constitucion is a very handsome square, with fountains, and in the centre is a tasteful equestrian statue of Peter I., the founder of the Brazilian Monarchy. We are now in the new town; the streets are wide and well paved: the English Company, called the Rio Improvement Company, has done good service here. The convict prison is surrounded with high walls of granite: a little further on we reach another Plaza, where the Lyric Theatre, the Senate-house, and other buildings claim notice. As we get to the outskirts we see the reservoir of the grand aqueduct of Tijuca. The pleasantest excursion from Rio is to Tijuca, which is situate in the mountains, about twelve miles inland. An omnibus leaves the San Francisco square every hour. Numerous charming cottages, sprinkled here and there over a fertile zone of gardens and orange groves,

occupy the line of route as we ascend towards Tijuca. The omnibus stops at a place called Andrahy. Here you can hire a horse or coach to ascend the hill. The road winds round a succession of precipices disclosing at every point the most enchanting views: the gorge below is at times 500 feet perpendicular. There are several country-seats, where the owners reside in summer. The road is first-rate, and at short distances there are gas lamps. The English Hotel is in a hollow, although still at a great height; the proprietor is Mr. Bennett. It would be difficult even in England to find anything to surpass the neatness, elegance, and comfort of this house. Mr. Bennett gets up pic-nic parties twice a week to all the finest points of scenery in this lovely neighbourhood. After seeing Tijuca you should next make a trip to Petropolis. The first part of the journey is made in steamboat, some fourteen miles across the bay; the second is in the Baron Mauá's railway, about sixteen miles, and the rest by diligence. The ascent of the Sierra da Estrella, a branch of the Organ Mountains, is most picturesque. The road is a triumph of engineering skill, the mountain side being almost perpendicular. When you have ascended about a thousand feet you see the road winding zig-zag below you, every bend forming a terrace cut in the rock. There is no possibility of an accident, the road being lined, over the precipice, with a stone wall four feet high. Petropolis is at last reached after a half hour's drive over the table-land lying between two ridges. It is embosomed in the mountains, at a height of 2600 feet above the sea. The mountains rise all around like a barrier, the vegetation is as tall and luxuriant as at Tijuca. Petropolis is the summer residence of the Brazilian Court and aristocracy. The Emperor's palace is a fine massive pile of building, not unlike an Italian nobleman's villa.

The great attraction in Rio is the Botanical Garden, with an avenue of palms that has no match in the world. The drives around by Botafogo, Laranjeiras, La Glória, &c., are very beautiful, and omnibuses ply every hour from the square adjoining the Emperor's palace. In the shops of Rua Ouvidor will be found feather-flowers, beetles, jewellery, and such like articles. The English Consulate is in the Rua Direita, Consul Mr. George Lennon Hunt, who is also agent for the Royal Mail steamers. The English Minister, Mr. Buckley Mathew, resides near Botafogo. The Exchange and Post-office are in the same street as the Consulate and McDowell's hotel.

From Rio to Montevideo takes four or five days, according to the weather. Pamperos are not uncommon on this coast. Far out to sea, before seeing land, we can perceive the effect of the waters of the River Plate, changing the color of the ocean. Maldonado is situate at the mouth of the river, and

the navigation is here very dangerous, owing to the bad arrangement of lights. A profitable seal fishery is carried on at Lobos Island. The coast of the Banda Oriental is low and uninteresting till we sight the «mount» which has given its name to Montevideo.

Montevideo is the capital of the Republic of Uruguay, with a population of 70,000 souls. The city, as seen from the bay, looks to advantage, the towers of the Matriz Church, and the Custom-house and Caridad Hospital being conspicuous. The best hotels are the Oriental and Americano, charge, 9s. per day. Strangers are admitted to the Club: they will find the *Daily Standard* at the agency, Mr. G. Behrens, 103 Calle Zavala. Fully three-fourths of the inhabitants are foreigners, including a number of English and German merchants. There are numerous fine buildings, especially the Bolsa, where the merchants meet at two P.M., every day. The River Plate Telegraph Co.'s office is in the same building. There are drives to the Paso Molina, Buschenthal's quinta, and a tramway to Union. The Rev. Mr. Adams reads Divine service at eleven o'clock on Sundays, at the English Church. The British Hospital is a small building near the fort. The Government-house is in Calle Rincon. Major Munro is British Vice-Consul. Mail-packet agent, Mr. Charles, 50 Calle Castellanos; Tait's line, Mr. Schwartz, 103 Calle Misiones; Liverpool steamers, Mr. Charles Horne, 213 Calle Cerrito.

The steamers leave Montevideo in the evening and arrive at the outer roads of Buenos Ayres by daybreak. The minarets, church towers, and cupolas give a light and fantastic appearance to the city, which, seated some eighty feet above the western shore of the La Plata, extends about two miles along the water's edge and forms an irregular quadrangle of 500 cuadras, or 2,000 acres, area. On near approach, the various public buildings can be clearly discerned, rising from the crowd of minor edifices. In the centre of the picture is the Custom-house, with a wharf stretching some 600 yards into the river. On the right are seen—the belfry of La Merced, the Capitanía del Puerto with a flagstaff, the fine edifices of Don Felipe Llavallol and Don Juan Anchorena, and at the extremity of the line of beach the gas-house, close to which are the terminus of the Northern Railway and a battery of four guns, *à fleur d'eau*, used for salutes. In the back ground of the centre we see the clock-tower of the Cabildo, the roof of Colon Theatre, and the porcelain cupola of the Cathedral; while further to the left rise the towers of San Francisco and Santo Domingo, and on a slight eminence stands San Telmo. The view is bounded by a low strip of coast edged with luxuriant vegetation, in the midst of which the Riachuelo stream debouches into the Plata.

NEW YORK TO BUENOS AYRES.

The mail steamer leaves New York on the —th of each month for the Brazils, calling at St. Thomas. From New York to St. Thomas is about 1,600 miles English, and the voyage usually takes six days.

St. Thomas is one of the Virgin Islands, recently sold by Denmark to the United States, and situate thirty-eight miles east of Porto Rico. Area, 24 square miles; population, 12,560. The surface is elevated and rough, highest in the centre. It was formerly well wooded; but the cutting of the timber has subjected it to frequent and severe droughts. The soil is sandy and not very fertile: about 2,500 acres are under cultivation, the principal crops being cotton and sugar. St. Thomas is open to the commerce of all nations: it is a depot of goods for the adjacent islands, and is becoming an important packet station. It is visited by 3,000 vessels annually. Capital, Charlotte Amelie.

From St. Thomas's to Pará (Brazil) the distance is nearly 1800 miles. The town of Pará, or Belem, is situated on the river Guama, which flows into the estuary of Pará, about 70 miles from the Atlantic, in lat. 1.34 S., and long. 48.50 W.: population 28,000, including 4,000 slaves. The climate is hot, being almost under the equator, but not unhealthy. The streets are well laid out and paved. The houses are not generally high, but they are substantially and often elegantly built. The town boasts a handsome cathedral and several churches, a governor's palace, a college, schools, hospitals, a botanic garden, a theatre, and a law-court. The anchorage is safe and roomy, and with the exception of two shoals at the entrance of the river, is easy of access. The approach to the town is commanded by a small fort. The principal exports consist of cocoa, india-rubber, rice, nuts, and hides: In 1856, 5,000,000^{lb} of India-rubber were exported. The total value of exports during the year 1858-59, was \$1,950,048, of which no less than 42 per cent. was shipped to the United States. The imports from the United States for the same year were valued at \$542,379, and consisted of manufactured articles, lumber, flour, &c.

Cape San Roque is distant a thousand miles from Pará. After doubling this cape, we have yet 200 miles before reaching Pernambuco, and from this last port the rest of the voyage is the same as the route from England to Buenos Ayres. The total distance from New York to Rio Janeyro is nearly 6,000 miles. At Rio, the passengers wait for the French or English mail-steamers, to proceed to the River Plate; but, it is likely the American Company will soon establish a branch-line to Montevideo.

CHAP. XVII.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S .

CUSTOMS LAW FOR 1869.

Imports by Water.

ART. 1. The following are duty-free:—gold and silver coined or in bullion, books, printing-paper, plants of all kinds, fresh fruits, ice, firewood, charcoal, cattle for breeding, maize and maize flour (introduced by land), prepared tobacco for curing scab in sheep.

2. The Executive may exempt from duties the following:—seeds for agriculture, articles for Divine worship (at the order of the clerical authorities,) scientific instruments, machinery for steamboats, machinery for mining or new industries, furniture and utensils for immigrants and other things exclusively for their establishment.

3. The following shall pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*:—salt, silks, unset precious stones, gold and silver wrought, either with or without precious stones, all articles mounted in gold or silver, when such mounting increases their value by one-third.

4. All articles not above excepted shall pay 18 per cent. *ad valorem*.

5. The leakage allowed on wines, aguardiente, liquors, beer in wood, and vinegar, shall be calculated according to the port whence the vessel brings her cargo, and only in the first Argentine port she enters, viz., 10 per cent. for vessels from beyond the Line, six per cent. for this side of the Line, and three per cent. within the Capes (at the mouth of the River Plate).

Exports by Land and Water.

6. Horse and cow hides of every kind, mule and sheep skins, and skins in general, hide-cuttings, jerked and salted meat, salt tongues, ostrich feathers, bones, bone-ash, horns and horn-tips, horse-hair, wool washed or unwashed, animal oil, grease and tallow raw or rendered, shall pay six per cent. *ad valorem*.

7. Every other article of produce or manufacture, as also gold and silver coined or in bullion, shall be admitted duty-free.

Calculation of Duties.

8. The duties shall be arranged by «Vistas» and calculated in imported articles on their value in deposit, and in exports on their market value at date of shipment; always excepting such articles as may be previously classified and valued in the Valuation Tariff, based on the same principle. The valuation on washed wool shall be no greater than what the tariff stipulates for unwashed.

9. The Executive shall fix the valuation of the articles to be included in said Tariff.

10. Export duties shall be paid at the first port of shipment, being articles cleared direct for foreign parts; and cannot be transported by water from one point to another of the Republic without having first paid the duties or given the usual security. For such duties, approved bills, to the satisfaction of the Customs' authorities, shall be given on stamped paper, at four months.

General Regulations.

11. Duties may be paid, at any of the Custom-houses of the Republic, in any of the moneys declared legal tender by law of Oct. 26th 1863, or in the paper-money of Buenos Ayres, or in Bolivian silver at its current value, or in Provincial Bank certificates for specie deposits. The copper currency shall only be received in the proportion of 3 per cent. on the amount payable; and no vouchers or documents shall be received in payment of duties.

12. Goods that have paid import duties in any Custom-house of the Republic may pass free throughout its territory; but land-transit is forbidden to those that have not paid duties, except in the case of goods passing from Concordia, through Federacion and Restauracion, to the Brazilian ports on the Uruguay, or *vice versa*; also excepting goods in transit from Paraguay, passing through Federacion or Restauracion, for Brazil or the Republic of Uruguay.

13. This law shall hold from January 1st 1869 to December 31st of same year.

Given at Congress, in Buenos Ayres, this 22nd day of September, 1868.

ANGEL ELIAS, MARIANO ACOSTA.

Let the above be fulfilled and registered.

MITRE.

CRISTOBAL AGUIRRE.

Ed. Note.—We understand that salt for the saladeros has been recently declared duty-free.

NATIONAL STAMPED PAPER (1869).

1st. The stamped paper to be used in all public departments and tribunals of the nation shall be as follows:—

Amount.		For 90 Days.		Over 90 Days.	
Above	\$25 and under	\$100	\$0 12c.	\$0	0c.
Do.	100 do.	300	0 25	0	0
Do.	300 do.	500	0 50	0	0
Do.	500 do.	800	0 75	0	0
Do.	800 do.	1,000	1 0	0	0
Do.	1,000 do.	1,500	1 50	0	0
Do.	1,500 do.	2,000	2 0	0	0
Do.	2,000 do.	2,500	2 50	3	75
Do.	2,500 do.	3,000	3 0	4	50
Do.	3,000 do.	3,500	3 50	4	75
Do.	3,500 do.	4,000	4 0	6	0
Do.	4,000 do.	4,500	4 50	6	75
Do.	4,500 do.	5,000	5 0	7	50
Do.	5,000 do.	5,500	5 50	7	75
Do.	5,500 do.	7,500	7 50	10	75
Do.	7,500 do.	10,000	10 0	15	0
Do.	10,000 do.	12,500	12 50	18	75
Do.	12,500 do.	15,000	15 0	22	0
Do.	15,000 do.	20,000	20 0	30	0
Do.	20,000 do.	25,000	25 0	37	50
Do.	25,000 do.	30,000	50 0	43	0

and from \$30,000 upwards the stamp shall be 1 per mil extra under or over ninety days.

2. All obligations subject to national jurisdiction shall be on stamped paper as above.

3. Contracts between masters and sailors of merchant ships shall have a stamp of 12 cents.

4. Each leaf of a petition to the National Government, Tribunals or offices, and all copies of documents produced in court, a stamp of 25 cents. Guides, permits, or policies for shipment of goods, and protocols by Escribanos, 25 cents. The first leaf of one of the discharge manifests of coasting crafts under 50 tons, as well as permits for loading or unloading, 25 cents. Petitions of soldiers for pay or pensions may be presented in common paper.

5. The discharge manifest of vessels over 50 and under 100 tons, and permits for loading and unloading, 50 cents. Copies of documents from the archives, 50 cents.

6. The discharge manifest of vessels over 100 tons, and permits for loading or unloading, 75 cents.

7. Manifests of steam packets, \$1.

8. Navigation license for coasting craft under 50 tons, \$2½. Discharge manifests, and petition to load or unload, for sea-going vessels under 50 tons, \$2½.

9. Coasting craft over 50 tons shall pay \$3 for license, and sea-going vessels the same for each leaf of the manifest of their cargo cleared for foreign ports.

10. Sea-going vessels under 50 and over 100 tons shall pay \$5 for their discharge manifest, and for petitions to load or unload.

11. Vessels over 100 tons shall pay \$10 for discharge manifest, or for petitions to load or unload. Pilots' licenses, \$10 each.

12. Concessions of land or of any privilege except for Patents of Invention, shall pay \$25.

13. Navigation license for Argentine sea-going vessels, \$50.

14. The stamp shall be paid by the party presenting the document or originating the proceedings.

15. The Judges or authorities may admit unstamped paper, with the obligation on the parties to put on the proper stamps afterwards.

16. If any party make out or present a document in unstamped paper he shall pay a fine of ten times the proper amount of stamp. If the stamp be of insufficient value he shall pay the same fine, less the value of the stamp. Notaries or others concerned in such omission shall pay the same fine.

17. Any public employee before whom a petition is presented insufficiently stamped, shall write on it «no corresponde.» The petition shall not be admitted till the fine be paid.

18. When any doubt arises as to the necessary amount of stamp, the authorities shall decide either verbally, or in writing by the Fiscal, from which there shall be no appeal.

19. Any document may be stamped within thirty days in Buenos Ayres; or if in the Provinces within sixty days, with date noted by the nearest receiver of revenue.

20. Tickets of contracts to be afterwards formally drawn up, may be made on unstamped paper.

21. In the first three months of the year any unused stamp of the previous year may be exchanged.

22. Unused stamp paper of the current year may be exchanged on payment of 3 cents per stamp.

23. In all the month of January the stamps of the previous year may be used in any kind of petition.

24. In contracts of monthly payment for a given term the stamp shall be for one-half the total amount of such payments till the end.

25. This law shall hold from 1st January, 1869.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT MITRE.

1862.

April 12—General Mitre assumes the National Executive, and dismisses the diplomatic agents appointed by the Paraná Government.

May 16—Contract and regulations for mail-coach service.

May 25—Congress inaugurated at Buenos Ayres.

June 12—Decree of election for President and Vice-President.

July 10—Proclamation to the people of Corrientes.

August 10—Minister of War sent as National Commissioner to Corrientes.

August 12—Corrientes declared in state of siege.

August 16—Intervention ordered in Catamarca.

August 19—Custom-house law for 1862. Foreign coins admitted as a legal tender.

September 5—Executive authorized to make a railway to Cordova.

September 27—Contract with D. Esteban Rams for navigating the Salado.

September 29—General census of the Republic ordered.

October 3—Various provincial departments made national.

October 4—Congress prolongs its sessions.

October 7—General Mitre and Don Marcos Paz elected President and Vice-President.

October 8—City of Buenos Ayres made temporary capital.

October 13—Dr. Rawson, Minister of Interior; Dr. Elizalde, Foreign Affairs; Dr. Velez Sarsfield, Finance; Dr. Costa, Instruction; General Gelly-Obes, War and Marine.

October 17—Project to navigate the Rio Vermejo.

October 18—Federal Court established:—Drs. Alsina, Carreras, Carril, Delgado, Barros Pazos, and Pico.

October 24—Appointment of Consuls-general abroad.

November 1—Consolidation of the Paraná floating debt.

November 14—Congress closes sessions.

November 19—Decree on intervention of Consuls in case of foreigners dying intestate.

November 29—Extradition of a Brazilian subject refused.

December 31—Officers of the Independence placed on the army roll.

1863.

January 15—Each of the Provinces, except Buenos Ayres, to receive a subsidy of \$12,000 per annum.

January 24—Arrangement of extra-duties with Mauá & Co.

January 31—Committee named to examine coupons of foreign debt.

February 18—Mr. Bliss sent to explore the Chaco.

March 14—National college of Buenos Ayres established.

March 19—Contract with Wheelwright for Cordoba Railway.

April 7—Distribution of funds for Mendoza sufferers.

May 5—Congress re-opens.

May 18—Balcarse named envoy to France, England, Spain, and Italy.

May 23—Wheelwright's concession ratified.

July 20—Hopkin's project for canalising the Capitan.

August 26—Amortization of Corrientes paper money.

September 7—Executive authorised to spend £100,000 sterling in building a new Custom-house.

September 10—Decimal system adopted.

October 10—Congress sessions prolonged.

October 16—Projects of telegraph wires to Rosario, and to introduce traction engines.

October 17—Roads and Bridges Stock authorised.

October 20—Expenses paid to British Admiralty for sounding the rivers.

November 6—Treaty with Spain ratified.

November 13—Payment ordered of expenses incurred in the campaign against Rosas.

November 16—Public Credit Office established.

November 18—Congress session closed.

December 7—Marmol sent envoy to Brazil.

1864.

January 21—Sourdeaux's contract for Artesian wells.

February 29—Dr. Gonsalez succeeds Dr. Sarsfield as Finance Minister.

May 12—Congress re-opens.

June 10—Protocol ratified to pay Brazil \$714,000 s.

June 15—Executive authorised to subscribe £40,000 to Cordoba Railway.

June 20—Rosario Immigration Committee established.

July 29—Contract for navigating the Upper Uruguay.

September 5—Privilege to Mr. Perkins for paper mill and powder factory.

September 24—Project of telegraph from Buenos Ayres to Montevideo.

October 1—Vote of \$5,000 for introduction of useful seeds.

October 3—Road projected through the Gran Chaco.

October 8—Emission of \$5,000,000 in Bonds to amortise emissions of 1859 and 1861.

October 11—Patent Office established.

October 11—Concession of Eastern Argentine Railway.

December 9—National Colleges established in Catamarca, Salta, Tucuman, San Juan, and Mendoza.

1865.

January 2—Construction of refuge huts in the Andes.

January 27—Harrison & Mansilla's contract for six lines of steamers.

February 8—Vote of \$300 to buy useful books.

March 18—Intervention in Cordoba; Dr. Rawson sent as commissioner.

April 16—War breaks out with Paraguay; Republic in state of siege.

April 17—Paraguayan ports declared in blockade.

April 18—Paraguayan properties confiscated, and Señor Egusquiza arrested.

May 1—Congress re-opens.

May 8—Horses declared an article of war.

May 9—Declaration of war against Paraguay.

- May 26—Treaty of Alliance with Brazil and Montevideo ratified.
- May 27—Loan of \$12,000,000 voted.
- June 2—Three days mourning for death of Lincoln.
- June 5—Vote to raise an army of 28,000 men.
- June 5—Riestra sent to London to negotiate loan.
- June 6—Supplemental vote of \$8,000,000 for war expenses.
- June 10—General Mitre takes the field, and Vice-President Paz assumes power.
- July 7—Hopkins' concession prolonged.
- July 10—Rams' concession prolonged three years.
- August 16—Extradition Treaty with Banda Oriental.
- August 18—Vote of \$20,000 for steam communication with New York.
- August 19—Medals to the officers and men who fought at Corrientes.
- August 23—Committee named to send articles to Paris Exhibition.
- August 28—Subsidy for distressed Correntino families.
- September 22—Extradition Treaty with Bolivia.
- October 2—Vote of \$15,000 for expenses of Paris Exhibition.
- October 7—Vote of \$15,000 for the Gualeguay Railway.
- October 12—Treaty of amity and commerce with Bolivia.

1866.

- January 23—Torrent sent envoy to Brazil.
- May 6—Congress re-opens.
- May 12—Subsidy of \$4,000 to Rioja.
- June 15—Commissioner sent to report on Welsh Colony.
- June 22—Tucuman paper money redeemed.
- June 28—Treaty with Portugal of 1852 denounced.
- July 7—Seizure of 5,000 horses and 1,500 mules.
- July 10—Subvention of \$4,000 a month to San Luis.
- September 1—Extra war credit of \$4,000,000 in Treasury notes.
- September 24—Telegraph project from Buenos Ayres to Chile.
- September 28—Vote of a medal to all officers and soldiers in Paraguay.
- October 2—Invalid soldiers to be sent home gratis.
- October 3—Various provincial debts of Buenos Ayres assumed by the nation.
- October 4—New credit for war expenses. Intervention in Catamarca.
- October 8—English debt of Buenos Ayres assumed by the nation.
- October 20—Construction of a bridge over the Rio Tercero.
- October 22—Municipality of Buenos Ayres restored to Provincial jurisdiction.

- November 9—Arrangement with Provincial Bank for 4,000,000 treasury notes.
November 15—Minister of War sent to look after the frontier.
November 21—Paunero's intervention in Mendoza.
November 28—Contract with Aguirre and Murga for steam-service to Patagones for three years.
December 11—Contract for telegraph to Chile.

1867.

- January 10—Buenos Ayres paper-money received for duties at 25 per.
January 13—Arrangements of Paraguayan ports now occupied.
January 26—Minister of War sent against Mendoza rebels.
February 13—Wharfage dues at the Tigre established.
March 7—Subvention to the Welsh colony.
March 22—Project of telegraph to Rosario.
April 13—Grant of \$8,000 to cholera sufferers.
April 22—Ecclesiastical tribunals organized.
May 3—Fiscal appointed to prosecute Cordoba rebels.
May 14—Projected highway from Cordoba to San Juan.
June 2—Congress re-opens.
July 19—Suspension of all furloughs to officers.
August 2—A sum of \$20,000 distributed among the provinces.
August 20—General Conesa sent to put down the Cordoba rebels.
August 29—Re-building Government-house after the fire.
September 6—Drs. Ugarte and Uriburu succeed Ministers Elizalde and Costa.
September 12—Congress authorizes another subscription of 15,000 shares to the Central Argentine Railway.
September 18—Vote of \$18,000 to the destitute families in Rioja.
October 3—Emission of \$600,000 in Bonds.
October 14—Credit of \$2,000,000 with Provincial Bank.
November 15—Plans ordered of a projected railway from Villa Nueva to Rio Cuarto.
November 18—Minister of War sent with an army to the Interior.
November 27—Council of War ordered on General Arredondo.
November 30—Intervention in Rioja; La Fuente special commissioner.
December 21—New regulations about payment of export duties.
December 25—Intervention in Santa Fé; Dr. Pico special commissioner.

1868.

- January 2—Death of Vice-President Paz. The Ministers assume power.

January 23—Funeral honors to General Asboth, United States Minister.

January 25—Resignation of Ministers Ugarte, Uriburu, Rawson, and Gonzalez. Appointment of Sarmiento (who refuses), Elizalde, Costa, Aguirre, and Paunero, as the new Cabinet.

January 30—Funeral honors to Vice-President Paz.

January 31—Minister Costa's intervention in Santa Fé.

February 19—Elections ordered for new President and Vice.

February 20—State of Siege throughout the Republic suspended.

March 4—Sum of \$1500 sent to cholera sufferers in Catamarca.

March 10—Subsidy of \$150,000 distributed among the thirteen upper Provinces.

March 28—Continued subsidy to Welsh colony.

April 2—Sum of \$1500 sent to cholera sufferers in San Juan.

May 18—Congress re-opens.

June 3—Congress revokes the state of siege.

June 13—Congress calls for protocol of Triple Alliance treaty.

June 18—Intervention by General Emilio Mitre in Corrientes.

August 4—General Caceres summoned to a Council of War.

August 16—D. Domingo Sarmiento declared President, and D. Adolfo Alsina Vice-President of the Republic.

August 24—Arrangement about Spanish claims.

August 28—Italian treaty of 1856 prolonged for a year.

September 7—Congress offers a premium for best system of curing beef.

September 18—Proposed law to remove the capital to Rosario—vetoed.

September 23—Treaty with Belgium for navigation of the Scheld.

September 23—Vote of \$30,000 to Dr. Tejedor for his Penal Code.

September 26—Vote of \$1,111,000 in bonds, to pay Spanish claims.

September 26—Another vote of \$1,430,000 for other Spanish claims.

September 30—Census of the Republic ordered.

October 2—Export duty taken off copper.

October 8—Vote of \$2,000,000 for the war.

October 10—Cession of an island at Cape Horn to Mr. Piedrabuena.

October 10—Salaries of President, Vice-President, and Ministers increased.

October 10—Subscription of \$25,000 to Mr. Hopkins' project of the Capitan.

October 10—National Guard of Corrientes called out.

October 10—Vote of \$30,000 to Martin de Moussy.

October 12—General Mitre transfers the insignia of office to the new President, D. Domingo Faustino Sarmiento.

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

President—Don Domingo Faustino Sarmiento.
 Vice-President—Dr. Adolfo Alsina.
 Minister of Interior—Dr. Velez Sarsfield.
 Minister of Foreign Affairs—Dr. Mariano Varela.
 Minister of Finance—Dr. Benjamin Gorostiaga.
 Minister of Instruction—Dr. Nicolas Avellaneda.
 Minister of War and Marine—Colonel Martin Gainza.

Congress.

Chamber of Senators.

President—Dr. Adolfo Alsina.
 Buenos Ayres—Dr. Valentine Alsina, Don Felix Frias.
 Entre Rios—Dr. Benjamin Victorica, Don Anjel Elias.
 Corrientes—Dr. J. R. Vidal, Don W. Colodrero.
 Santa Fé—Dr. Joaquin Granel, Don Nicasio Oroño.
 Cordoba—Don José A. San Roman, Don Martin Piñero.
 Santiago—Don Absalon Ibarra, Don J. F. Borjes.
 Tucuman—Don Uladislao Frias, Don Salustiano Zavalia.
 Salta—Dr. Pedro Uriburu, Don Anselmo Rojo.
 Jujuy—Don Plácido S. Bustamante, Dr. Daniel Araoz.
 Catamarca—Dr. Anjel Navarro, Don José L. Lobo.
 Rioja—Don Guillermo Dávila, Dr. Abel Bazan.
 San Juan—Don Tadeo Rojo.* (One vacant).
 Mendoza—Don Eusebio Blanco, Don Federico Corbalan.
 San Luis—Don Mauricio Darac, Don Juan Llerena.

Chamber of Deputies.

Buenos Ayres—Dr. Mariano Acosta, Dr. Carlos Tejedor, Dr. Manuel Quintana, Dr. Manuel A. Montes de Oca, Dr. Pastor Obligado, Dr. Carlos Keen, Dr. Manuel Arauz, Don Mateo Martinez, Don José Marmol, General Conesa. (Two vacant).

Santa Fé—Dr. Marcelino Freire, Don Pedro Lasaga.
 Santiago—Don Pedro Gallo, Don Luis Frias, Don Amancio Gonzalez Durand, Don Luciano Gorostiaga.
 San Luis—Don Juan A. Barbeito, Don José Veloz Rua.
 Tucuman—Dr. Anjel C. Padilla, Don Anjel Mendez, Don Nabor Córdoba.
 Mendoza—Don Francisco Civit, Don Aristides Villanueva.

San Juan—Dr. Amaro Cuenca, Don Isidro Quiroga.

Entre Rios—Dr. Eusebio Ocampos, Dr. Vicente A. Montero.

Jujuy—Dr. Pablo Carrillo, Don Rufino Valle.

Catamarca—Dr. Adolfo Cano, Don José del Pino, Don Victoriano Tolosa.

Cordoba—Dr. Luis Velez, Dr. Benjamin Igarzabal, Dr. Nicéforo Castellano,

Don Santiago Cáceres, Don Augusto Lopez, Don Marcelino Gacitua.

Salta—Dr. Joaquin Diaz de Bedoya, Dr. Cleto Aguirre, Dr. Francisco J. Ortiz.

Rioja—Two deputies.. No election.

Corrientes—Four deputies. No election.

Supreme Federal Court.

Dr. Francisco de las Carreras, President; Dr. Salvador M. del Carril, Dr. Francisco Delgado, Dr. José Barros Pazos, Dr. Benito Carrasco. Procurator-General, Dr. Francisco Pico.

Federal Sectional Judges.

Buenos Ayres—Dr. Manuel Zavaleta, Dr. Carlos Eguia.

Entre Rios—Dr. Leonidas Echagüe.

Corrientes—Dr. José M. Guastavino.

Santa Fé—Dr. José M. Zuviria.

Cordoba—Dr. Saturnino Laspiur.

Santiago—Dr. Próspero García.

Tucuman—Dr. Agustin de la Vega.

Salta—Dr. Apolonio Ormaechea.

Catamarca—Dr. Joaquin Quiroga.

Jujuy—Dr. Macedonio Gras.

Rioja—Dr. Artemio Granillo.

San Juan—Dr. José B. de la Vega.

Mendoza—Dr. Franklin Villanueva.

San Luis—Dr. Pablo Saravia.

Hierarchy.

His Grace Dr. Mariano José de Escalada, Archbishop of Buenos Ayres.

Most Rev. Dr. Vicente R. Arellano, Bishop of Cordoba.

Most Rev. Fray Wenceslao Achaval, Bishop of Cuyo.

Most Rev. Fray B. Rizo Patron, Bishop of Salta.

Most Rev. Dr. José Maria Gelabert, Bishop of Paraná.

BUDGET FOR 1869.

Home Department.

President's bureau,	\$38,720
Minister of Interior,	20,280
Congress and Public Credit,	315,400
Post-office,	113,049
Immigration offices,	26,000
Contracts,	92,720
Official bulletin,	6,000
Public Works,	16,000
Roads and Bridges,	160,000
Post houses,	30,000
Pensions,	3,384
Miscellaneous,	20,000
Department of National Statistics,	4,804
Industrial patents,	6,632
Subsidies to the provinces,	210,000
	<hr/> \$1,062,989

Foreign Affairs.

Minister's bureau,	\$20,764
Legations,	81,570
	<hr/> \$102,334

Worship and Public Instruction.

Minister's bureau,	\$15,720
Federal Courts,	103,272
Printing,	12,000
Fiscal fees,	12,000
Miscellaneous (Justice),	2,000
Legal Codes,	6,160
Bishoprics,	109,604
Church subsidies,	30,000
Miscellaneous (Worship),	4,500
University and Colleges,	262,839
Subsidies for education,	100,000
Inspection of Colleges,	4,000
Primary instruction in Rioja,	15,000
Books,	60,000
Miscellaneous (Instruction),	8,000
	<hr/> \$745,095

NATIONAL BUDGET.

Finance Department.

Minister's bureau,	\$19,032
Treasury and Comptroller's office,	60,600
Custom-house,	647,058
Stamp office,	6,678
Fiscal buildings,	30,000
Pensions,	9,884
National Credit,	50,000
Miscellaneous,	20,000
	<hr/>
	\$843,252

War and Marine.

Minister's bureau,	\$28,584
Inspector's office,	37,536
Staff officers,	356,220
Artillery,	79,122
Infantry,	281,448
Cavalry,	394,746
National Guards, ...	184,620
Marine,	193,780
Army administration,	1,143,623
Pensions,	212,040
Independence heroes,	20,000
Indian subsidies,	212,906
Rations for the Navy,	46,197
Extras and arrears of pay,	173,568
Miscellaneous,	80,000
	<hr/>
	\$3,444,390

Public Debt.

Emission of Jan. 1862, \$2,000,000,	
9 per cent. interest,	\$180,000
Amortisation of same, 3 per cent.,	60,000
Emission of June 1861, \$960,000,	
6 per cents.,	44,388
Amortisation at 1 per cent.,	28,800
Emission of May 1859, \$800,000,	
6 per cents.,	48,000
Amortisation at 1 per cent.,	8,000
Brazilian debt, October 1868,	136,563
Coupons on Foreign Debt,	110,000
English coupons, after date.	10,000

Emission of Oct. 1860, \$3,000,000,		
6 per cents.,	\$169,412	
Amortisation at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.,	70,588	
Emissions of Nov. 1863 and Oct. 1864,		
\$12,000,000, at 6 per cent.,	677,648	
Amortisation at 1 per cent.,	112,941	
Emission of Oct. 1867, \$600,000, at		
6 per cent.,	33,882	
Amortisation at 1 per cent.,	5,647	
Emissions of Sept. and Oct. 1868,		
\$2,500,000, 6 per cent.,	143,492	
Amortisation at 1 per cent.,	23,915	
English loan of 1824, 5 per cents.,	519,522	
Amortisation,		
Deferred 3 per cents.,		
Amortisation at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.,		
English loan of 1866, £2,500,000,		
6 per cents.,	1,041,240	
		\$3,424,038
Total expenditure,	\$9,622,098	

WAYS AND MEANS.

Imports, estimate for 1869,	\$8,100,000
Exports,	2,250,000
Bonded stores,	300,000
Stamped paper,	160,000
Post-office,	88,000
Patents of invention,	1,300
Port fees,	1,100
Miscellaneous,	49,600
	<u>\$10,950,000</u>

Estimated surplus, \$1,327,902

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF REVENUE.

Revenue for 1864,	\$7,005,328
Do., 1865,	8,295,071
Do., 1866,	\$9,351,809
Extra duties for 1866,	216,745
Revenue for 1867,	9,724,284
Extra duties for 1867,	2,316,003
	9,568,554
	12,040,287

TABLE OF TIME.

POST-OFFICE RETURNS.

	Letters.	Papers.	Despatches.
1866,	1,894,594	1,395,564	102,779
1867,	2,009,092	1,449,650	109,156

There are 147 Post-offices in the Republic, viz. : San Luis, 2; San Juan, 2; Jujuy, 3; Salta, 3; Tucuman, 3; Mendoza, 3; Rioja, 3; Santiago, 4; Santa Fé, 4; Cordoba, 4; Catamarca, 5; Entre Rios, 12; Corrientes, 15; and Buenos Ayres, 84.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TIME.

When it is noon at Buenos Ayres it is at—

	Hours.	Minutes.	Seconds.
Montevideo,	12	8	43 P.M.
Rio Janeyro,	12	42	57
Bahia,	1	9	32
Pernambuco,	1	34	9
Valparaiso,	11	7	50 A.M.
New York,	10	58	35
Port Royal,	10	47	15
Cape de Verd Islands,	2	43	32 P.M.
St. Helena,	3	30	44
Madera,	2	45	54
London,	3	53	13
Paris,	4	2	57
St. Petersburg,	5	54	50
Berlin,	4	47	11
Vienna,	4	59	6
Constantinople,	5	29	46
Rome,	4	43	25
Venice,	4	42	57
Madrid,	3	36	53
Lisbon,	2	17	2
Calcutta,	9	46	57
Canton,	11	26	43
Jerusalem,	6	14	22
Pekin,	11	39	31
Sydney,	1	58	30 A.M.
New Caledonia,	3	3	29
Cape of Good Hope,	5	7	31 P.M.
Cairo,	5	58	58
Suez,	6	3	41



S. S. "City of Brasel."

SECTION B.

CHAP. I.

THE CITY OF BUENOS AYRES.

BUENOS AYRES is in many respects the finest city in South America, although second to Rio Janeyro in trade and population. In every other respect it stands first in this Continent. Being situated in S. Lat. 34.29, W. Long. 59.12 it enjoys a delightful climate, and is the most eligible residence in Spanish America. The first settlers called it Santisima Trinidad de Buenos Ayres, and it still preserves the cognomen of «good air,» which it so well deserves. It covers a superficies of almost 2,000 acres, forming a parallelogram whose longest sides are east and west, and cut up like a chess-board, in blocks 150 yards square. When laid out by the early Spaniards, the streets were made only thirty-six feet wide, and the houses had no upper story. Since 1860 a rage for building has prevailed, and now we see splendid edifices of three or four stories in every street. The streets are called «calles,» and the public squares «plazas;» the former are eighty-three in number, of which thirty-one run from the river-side due West, and fifty-two from North to South. The pavement and side-walks are bad and irregular; the city cannot yet boast street-drainage, but is being provided with water-supply, and is well lighted with gas. There are eleven parishes, containing sixteen Catholic churches,

besides some chapels of ease, and four Protestant churches. There are two city hospitals supported by the Municipality, and four of foreigners, belonging to the English, French, Italian, and Irish communities. The theatres are three in number, besides a handsome Concert-hall. The Custom-house offices are large, but a part of this edifice is now used as the National Government house. The Provincial Government house is close to the University, to which latter are attached the Museum and State Library. Five markets, for the daily supply of the city with provisions, are placed at convenient distances; and the Plazas 11th September, and Constitucion are the great wool-markets for the North and South districts of the camp. The two killing-grounds or «abattoirs» are situated in the extreme outskirts of the Recoleta and Convalecencia: the former locality is remarkable for the city cemetery, and the latter for the new and commodious Lunatic Asylum. The Protestant or English burial-ground is situate in Calle Victoria. Hotel accommodation is cheap and good, there being three superior, and five second-rate, houses, in which the charge varies from five to ten shillings per diem. The stranger finds himself at once at home in Buenos Ayres, as he can procure entrée by a visitor's ticket to all the clubs and societies in the city. As yet we have no public park, but there is a project to turn Palermo, the late residence of Rosas, into a species of Champs Elysées. The number of English houses is large, and the merchants constitute the most respectable class in the society of the city; English families (including Americans) are about 1,000 in number. There are five resident English physicians, and ten or twelve good English schools. The police department is imperfect, there being only some 200 vigilantes for the total city service. There is a barrack in the Plaza Retiro, the garrison being usually about 600 men. The artillery magazine in Plaza Parque contains some historic pieces of large calibre. The National Guards are drilled on Sundays during a few months in the year. Most foreign nations are represented by a Minister and a Consul, as vessels of all flags, and people of almost every country, are found in this port. The British Legation is in Calle Parque: at the Consulate, 121 Calle Mayo, is the English post-office. The French Consulate serves for a post-office to the Bordeaux monthly steamer.

The Foreign Club, in Calle San Martin, is the usual rendezvous of visitors, who merely require to have their name put down by one of the members. The native Clubs are fashionable and brilliant, but mostly used for balls: foreign visitors can easily procure invitations.

The Cathedral is one of the finest buildings in the continent, and the church services on great holidays are solemnized with becoming splendor.

There are two convents of friars, and two of (native) cloistered nuns; which escaped the suppression of religious orders after the Independence. The French Sisters of Charity have numerous institutes and schools, and the Irish Sisters of Mercy have a school and hospital.

The National and Provincial Governments, both, reside in the city, and act in perfect harmony. The Municipality, composed of a dozen leading Argentines and foreign residents, has its Town-hall at the Policia.

The Bolsa or Exchange is in Calle San Martin, and here the visitor will meet all the business men of the city, native and foreign. The Commercial Rooms, next door to the Capitanía, supply the latest shipping intelligence, and possess first-rate telescopes and a reading room. The Casa de Moneda or Bank of the Province is the headquarters of our paper-money. The Maná Bank was the first private bank in the city, established in 1858. The London and River Plate Bank, established in 1863, does a large and remunerative business. The Argentine Bank is of recent date.

The Argentine General Post-office, Calle Bolívar, is directed by Don Gervasio Posadas. The chief Courts of Law are in the Cabildo, Plaza Victoria, in the tower of which is the new town clock. The Congress-hall, open from May to November, is in Plaza Mayo, beside the Custom-house.

Each parish has a Justice of Peace, and male and female public schools. The inhabitants are generally well educated. There are ten daily papers, six Spanish, one English, one French, one German, and one Italian. Foreigners enjoy the fullest immunities, but have of course no representation or voice in the Legislature.

There are few cities that have made such progress as Buenos Ayres in the last ten years. In 1859 we had six miles of railway; at present we have 200 miles, on the Northern, Southern, Western and Ensenada lines. In 1859 there was but one line of ocean steamers; now there are seven lines from England, France, Belgium, Italy and the United States. In 1859 there were but two Banks: at present there are four. In 1859 the newspaper circulation was 3,000 daily; it now amounts to 20,000. In 1859 the population was 100,000, just half the present estimate. In 1859 there was not a single English joint-stock company, nor an insurance office, in the country; to-day it would be difficult to number them. In 1859 the number of immigrants was 4,700; at present the returns shew 30,000 per annum. In 1859 the business of the Post-office comprised 400,000 letters and papers; at present it is nearly 4,000,000. In 1859 the Customs revenues were about £200,000; now they exceed £2,000,000 sterling. The same increase is observable in every branch of industry or enterprise.

Tramways are about to be established throughout the city and suburbs,

the following lines being either projected or in course of construction. 1. From the Custom-house, along Calle Rivadavia, to the Plaza Once de Setiembre; 2. From Plaza Parque to Plaza Monserrat; 3. From the Plaza Constitucion terminus to the Plaza 25 de Mayo; 4. From Plaza Libertad to Plaza Victoria; 5. From the Cinco Esquinas to the village of Belgrano. On the first four lines the uniform charge would be \$1, the proprietors paying the municipality 20 per cent. of the gross receipts, for use of the streets.

The suburbs of Belgrano, San Fernando, Flores and Barracas are pretty, and studded with charming country seats. The Western Railway is open (100 miles) to Chivilcoy, the Northern (20 miles) to the Tigre, the Great Southern (75 miles) to Chascomus, and the Ensenada line (3 miles) to Barracas. Pleasant boating excursions may be made to Las Conchas, the islands of Carapachay, and the delta of the Paraná. There is almost daily steam communication with the river ports, and diligences ply to the various camp towns. The mortality of the city is thirteen daily or twenty-four per mil per annum. Immigration, 2,500 monthly. Municipal income, £120,000 per annum.

Buenos Ayres is the grand centre of communication between this part of South America and Europe. The traveller may here book himself for any of the river ports in the Paraná or Uruguay, or for the upper provinces of the Interior, or for the more distant republics of Paraguay, Bolivia, or Chile. He may even take a steamboat trip 2,000 miles up the river, into the interior of Brazil, passing Asuncion. Or if anxious to visit the Indian tribes of Patagonia, he will find monthly steamboat communication with Bahia Blanca and Rio Negro. As a place of residence for the visitor or invalid, no city in this hemisphere has superior attractions. The climate is healthy, and there are a variety of public amusements, fashionable and enlightened society, a healthy atmosphere of progress, and an almost weekly mail from Europe.

CHAP. II.

HOTELS, CLUBS, THEATRES, AND PLAZAS.

HÔTELS.

THERE are three first-rate hotels, and several of lesser note—

Hotel de la Paix, 56 Calle Cangallo, contains nearly 100 apartments, well ventilated. The «mirador» is one of the highest objects in the city, and commands a splendid view. English, French, and Spanish spoken. The proprietor, M. Marechal, has also a «maison meublée,» called *Hotel San Martin*, next the Bolsa, where visitors who purpose making a long stay will find suitable rooms with board. Charges vary from \$50 to \$120 (8s. to £1) per day, according to accommodation.

Hotel du Louvre, 95 Calle San Martin, is a new house, elegantly fitted up, and the charges are much the same as at La Paix. English and other languages spoken.

Hotel du Provence, 25 Calle Cangallo; very comfortable, and much frequented by English. Madame Boch is very attentive to families. This is one of the oldest and most respectable houses in town. Charges, \$40 a day, and upwards.

Hotel del Globo, 38 Calle Mayo: an Italian house, well kept, with a fine view of the roadstead. Charge, \$40 a day.

Hotel de Paris, 43 Calle Mayo; much frequented by Frenchmen; the dining-saloon overlooks the beach, good cuisine. Charge, \$40 per day.

Hotel de Europa, 53 Calle Mayo, established in 1809, much frequented by Dutch ship-captains; good board and attendance. Charge, \$35 per day.

The *Victoria Hotel*, Mr. John Geoghegan proprietor, 21 Calle Corrientes. This house is the rendezvous of Irish sheepfarmers when they come to town.

Furnished apartments, without board, may be obtained at the *Universelle*, 102 Calle San Martín; the *Ancla Dorada*, 76 Calle Cangallo; the *Maison-meublée*, No. 2 Calle Mayo; Mrs. Whittaker's, 77 Calle Mayo; Mrs. Summer's, 82 Calle Parque; Mrs. Stafford's, 190 Calle San Martín; Mr. Lewis, 146 Florida, and other respectable English houses, all of which are kept with the utmost neatness. The charges usual are—bed-room and parlor \$800 to \$1,200 (£7 to 10£) a month; bed-room, with attendance, \$300 to \$700 a month. Unfurnished rooms may be procured at \$200 to \$500 a month, and young men sometimes prefer taking lodgings with a native family, in order the quicker to learn Spanish. If the stranger wish to take a house, he will find it difficult to get one in a hurry, but must patiently advertise and wait. The best localities are the Plaza Retiro, Drabble Row, Plaza Parque, Whitfield's quintas, and Ludlam's terrace (Calle Defensa): rent, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month.

CLUBS.

The *Foreign Club*, No. 36 Calle San Martín, was established in 1841, its first President having been the head of the well known firm of Thomas Duguid & Co.: it was then situate on the site before occupied by Faunch's hotel, and which is now the English book-store of Messrs. Mackern. The present new building is elegant and commodious. The reading-room is probably the best in South America; there is a good billiard-room, and the coffee-room and cuisine are in English style, with reasonable charges: the other apartments are to match, the only drawback being that the premises are small, and command no view from the front. The slate in the hall contains the latest maritime intelligence, and the saloons are crowded at every hour in the day with the merchants of the city. The original number of subscribers was 150, but is now 274: Entrance fee, \$2,000; subscription for town residents \$70, for country residents \$35 per month. Foreign ministers, consuls, officers, and clergymen are admitted as honorary members. Visitors' tickets, available gratis for three months, may be procured by application to any of the members; such tickets may be prolonged four months more, by paying the monthly subscription.

The *Club del Progreso* was founded, May 1st 1852, by Messrs. Diego Alvear, Rufino Elizalde, Gervasio A. Posadas, and Juan Martín Estrada. Foreigners were admitted as members, and a spirit of social harmony began to be cultivated, after the long tyranny of Rosas. The bye-laws specially provided for balls at stated periods, which soon became the most brilliant «reunions» in South America. In 1859, Sr. Muñoz having concluded his

splendid house at the corner of Calles Peru and Victoria, the Club removed thither. The suite of saloons is unrivalled, and their luxury and style quite in keeping with the gay and fashionable society that has gained for the Progreso balls a Parisian reputation. The reading-room, library, billiard-room, conversation-hall, &c. are well arranged. The commercial news of the day is marked down on a slate. Besides the monthly balls, there are others on the grand fête-days of Buenos Ayres: strangers can procure an invitation through any of the members. The number of members is over 400; entrance fee, \$3,000 *m/c*; monthly subscription, \$75.

The *Club del Plata* was founded, August 6th 1860, in the building formerly occupied by the Philharmonic Society, 112 Rivadavia. The saloons are spacious and handsome (President Derqui lodged here, on his visit to Buenos Ayres, in 1860). The style and character of this Club are similar to those of the Progreso, and the balls almost as brilliant. Foreign residents may become members, and visitors can easily procure an invitation. Entrance fee \$600, and monthly subscription \$60.

The *Club del Parque* has been recently opened in Calle Artes, and is a rendezvous for the neighbors of the West end.

The *British Library*, No. 5 Calle Defensa, was established about forty years ago, and contains 1,600 works of general literature, besides a reading-room furnished with the leading local and English journals: there is a chess and smoking-room. Mr. Duffy, the librarian, is very attentive to visitors. The rooms are open on all week days, from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. There are printed catalogues, price \$5; and a list is posted up each month of the new works received by the packet. Subscribers may take out a book for a stated number of days, passing which a small fine is exacted. Periodicals are likewise lent out. The subscription for the Lending-library and reading-room is \$210 a year. Mr. Mudie supplies the institute with books.

German Clubs—There are no less than nine German clubs or societies.

1. The Germania, founded in 1853, composed of respectable tradesmen and their families, to the number of 250 members. They occasionally give concerts, balls, and amateur theatrical performances. They have a good reading room, with newspapers and books, also a piano, and the billiard room and skittle ground are open daily.
2. The Gymnastic Club, founded in 1854, comprises about 400 merchants and clerks, who have a large hall wherein gymnastic exercises are performed on certain days of the week: a small hall is being built for boys. The 14th anniversary was recently celebrated with a great athletic match and game of skittles, attended by a

number of ladies, the festivity concluding with a banquet. There are four fine skittle grounds, and a nice garden attached to the club. 3. The Teutonia, established in 1861, counts 100 members, mostly mercantile clerks, who give musical entertainments from time to time: their reading room contains books and papers in several languages; there are also music and billiard rooms and a refreshment and conversation hall. 4. The Concordia, opened in 1864, has 150 members, mostly tradesmen, who form a musical association and have a skittle ground, reading-room, &c. 5. The German Singing Academy, founded in 1864, counts 400 members, who devote themselves entirely to the study of classical and sacred music. Concerts are given at regular intervals in the German church and the Coliseum, with the most brilliant success. 6. The Heimath, or «home,» was founded in 1865, and has about 100 members of the mercantile class: reading-room, billiards, and music-hall. The club has quite a musical character. 7. The Kranken-verein, founded in 1865, is a society for the relief of sick persons. 8. The German Hospital Society, is similar to the last, founded in 1867, for the purpose of establishing a German hospital: a concert was given at the Coliseum towards this end. 9. The Thalia, founded in 1867, counts already eighty members, mostly tradesmen, who recreate themselves at skittles daily, and have also a billiard room, a good supply of books and journals, and a music room: they sometimes give balls and concerts. It will be seen that most of the above clubs are of an eminently musical character, and the Germans also form a large proportion of the Philharmonic Society. In 1865 there was a grand gathering of all the German musical associations of Buenos Ayres, Rosario, Montevideo and Rio Grande in the first-named city, and the festivities were kept up for three days.

THEATRES.

Colon Theatre, called after Columbus, stands at the N.E. corner of Plaza Victoria; it is used as an opera house, and is the finest theatre in the Continent. It was built in 1856, by a joint-stock company, at a cost of £40,000; the roof is of iron, and was put up by Mr. Turner of Dublin. The architect was Mr. Charles Pelligrini. The house can conveniently hold 2,500 persons: there are three tiers of boxes, above which is the Cazuella, for ladies only; the upper gallery is called the Paraiso. In the pit there are only gentlemen; but a few rows of front stalls are set apart for ladies and gentlemen. Ladies in the boxes usually wear ball dress, but the etiquette in this particular is not rigid. There are tertulia seats on either

side of the President's state-box, for ladies and gentlemen; and screened boxes below for parties in mourning. The appearance of the house, when full, is extremely brilliant: the stage is of great size, the scenery very fine, and the orchestra good; the performances are fair enough, though not equal to what is seen in Europe. Performances commence in winter at 7.30 P.M., and in summer at 8.30 P.M. A first-rate coffee-house is attached to the theatre. Between the acts it is very customary to go around visiting friends in the boxes. Smoking is not allowed in the passages. The house is well lighted and ventilated, but the accommodation for entrance and exit is insufficient. Performances are given three times a week. Boxes, \$200; tertulias, \$30; pit, \$20; cazuela, \$15: besides these charges every one has to pay \$20 entrance; there is no charge to the paraíso, other than that of entrance. The theatre is not exclusively devoted to the opera, but often used for the Spanish drama or other entertainments. Public dinners are sometimes given here, and the annual distribution of premiums to the State schools, on the 26th of May, is a grand function. During Carnival there is a series of masked balls, when the splendid suite of saloons is also thrown open, and as many as 4,000 tickets are sold in a night: the dancing is confined to the pit, which is crowded with the *demi monde*. From the roof is obtained the finest view in Buenos Ayres, taking in the city and suburbs *a vol d'oiseau*. At times even the coast of Banda Oriental is visible—the town of Colonia, and Cerro de San Juan—but this is an infallible sign of bad weather. There is a fire engine, with water-tank, on the roof.

Victoria Theatre, 344 Calle Victoria, is devoted to the Spanish drama; it holds 1,500 persons, but is badly constructed for sound. It is used once or twice a year by English amateurs, who give an English play, for benefit of the British Hospital. Boxes, \$100—tertulias, \$15—pit, \$10—Cazuela, \$10—and entrance \$10. Performances, three times a week. The site of this theatre was quite outside the city only sixty years ago. When building the foundations the workmen came upon an old ditch, in which were discovered the bones and accoutrements of a number of English soldiers who fell in the unfortunate invasion of Whitelocke, A.D. 1807.

Franco Argentine Theatre, in Calle Cangallo, opposite the Hotel de la Paix, belongs to the French Bouffes, who give two or three performances weekly. It holds 1,000 persons. This was the oldest theatre in Buenos Ayres, till 1857, when it was almost destroyed in a riot; it was used as a Custom-house depot till 1864, when Madame Pauline converted it into a French theatre, taking a lease of it for nine years. The performances

consist of burlesques and comic operas. Upper boxes, \$125—lower boxes, \$100—tertulia seats, \$15—pit, \$10—entrance, \$10.

The Coliseum. This elegant concert-hall was built by the English and German residents in 1865, in shares of £40 each, the architects being Messrs. Hunt and Schroeder. It stands in Calle Parque, between Calles Esmeralda and Suipacha, and cost about £12,000 sterling. Being simply a Concert-hall, it is small but beautifully arranged, with seats for 500 persons, and cloak-rooms, ladies' apartments, dining-hall, &c. suitable for balls, public dinners or such like purpose. The vestibule has three entrance-doors: the grand hall is lofty and well designed, with seven frescoes on the left and four on the right, the other three niches on the right being occupied by doors opening into a corridor. These frescoes, from the palette of M. Palliere, comprise the following allegories:—we begin on the left, 1. Figure of Victory, a woman crowned with palm. 2. A female Bacchante. 3. A girl playing on a guitar. 4. A priestess playing on the lyre. 5. Rustic poetry: a woman dancing and playing on the triangle. 6. Comedy: Folly with her cap and bells. 7. The Idylls: a woman playing on the ancient double-flute. On the right side, we have—1. Chant de Joie: a woman playing castanets. 2. Chant de Deuil: female figure with urn and cypress-wreath. 3. Sacred Song: woman playing an organ. 4th. Concert Music: woman playing a violin. At the end of the hall, behind the orchestra, are three doors communicating with the *salle-a-manger* and ladies' apartments. The corridor on the right of the hall leads into a small court-yard with glass-roof, and other out-offices. The cloak-rooms are on either side of the vestibule at the entrance to the hall. The front of the building is very chaste, with the motto «*Artibus et Musis.*» The large hall measures forty feet by eighty-five, and is lighted by three gasoliers, with 110 jets, from the ceiling, which is forty feet high. The hall is admirably suited for singing, there being no gallery or other impediment to the sound. The dining-hall is 26x40 feet: behind the smoking room follow the servants' apartments and kitchen. The Coliseum was inaugurated in November 1865, with a series of concerts by Professors Reinken, Werner and Schramm. The grand electric telegraph banquet was given here in November 1866, on the completion of the cable and wires to Montevideo. Balls and concerts are given at intervals, with great brilliancy and success. The select concerts of the German Singing Academy are considered very fine, but the number of invitations is limited. The Philharmonic Society, comprising the best Argentine and foreign amateurs, gives public concerts, which are always fashionably attended.

PLAZAS.

The *Plaza Victoria* is the great square of the city, covering an area of 21,000 square yards. In the centre is the column of Liberty, with the inscription «25 de Mayo, 1810,» to commemorate the revolution of Buenos Ayres, which resulted in the independence of all South America. Each side of the plaza has a row of paradise trees and marble seats: here the citizens sometimes sit, on summer evenings, while a band plays. The plaza is at times used for military reviews, the troops defiling in front of the *Policia*, and the President and staff occupying the municipal balcony. The *Policia* is under the direction of Don Enrique O'Gorman, who levies fines for the infraction of municipal regulations, and condemns minor offenders to sweep the streets or suffer confinement for some days. The *Cabildo*, erected in 1711, was the Town Hall, under the Spaniards, and is now the seat of the Law Courts: it was struck by lightning in 1862, but now has a conductor. On the ground-floor are the notaries' offices, and inside is the prison for malefactors. After 11 p.m. no one can pass under this arcade. The town clock, in the *Cabildo* tower, was put up by Messrs. Jaeggli & Diavet, agents for Roskell of Liverpool, in 1861. The former timepiece was very irregular, the weights being of sand, which changed under atmospheric influences: the present one is illuminated by night until 12 o'clock, and keeps excellent time; its cost was £500. The *Recoba Nueva*, or new arcade, is on the south side of the Plaza, and consists of a number of shops. There is a cab stand at the corner; the cabs are usually better than are found in most European cities. The north side of the Plaza is occupied by the Cathedral and the Archbishop's house. The portico and façade of the Cathedral are massive and yet elegant, the façade being decorated with an alto-relievo of «Joseph embracing his brethren,» to commemorate the family compact of Buenos Ayres with the Argentine Provinces after the civil wars of 1853—59. The episcopal palace was erected by order of the Legislature of the Province of Buenos Ayres, in 1861: it is spacious and well-built. Alongside is an old house, with tile roof: the owners refused a fabulous price for the site, whereon it was proposed to build a bank. At the corner of the Cathedral and Calle San Martin is a historic monument—the foundation-stone of Buenos Ayres, A.D. 1535: it is now covered with an iron plate, but remained in its original state, open to view, till 1862, when a water-cart broke off a large piece of it. It is nearly round, and quite rough and unpolished. Don Juan de Garay called this square the Plaza Mayor, which name it preserved till August, 1806, when it gained its present name, in honor of the complete

victory over General Beresford. The Recoba Vieja is a kind of Moorish arcade, with an ugly triumphal arch of brick and mortar, in the centre. Hair-cutters, shoemakers, confectioners, and small dealers have shops on either side of the arcade, the back looking into Plaza Mayo. The property belongs to Señor Anchorena. It is a great eye-sore, and should be knocked down as soon as possible. In front of the Recoba, municipal fireworks are let off on the civic festivals.

The *Plaza 25 de Mayo* is separated from the Plaza Victoria by the Recoba Vieja, and overlooks the river. It has the same area as the Plaza Victoria, and the chief object of interest is the Custom-house, which was built in 1855: it stands on the site of the old fort of Santa Trinidad, erected by the first Spanish settlers. Although possessing great historic interest the fort was demolished, and the present inferior building put up in its place. The old fort was the residence of the Spanish Viceroys, the headquarters of General Beresford in the English invasion of 1805, and the scene of the revolution of 1810. There was a tradition that the Spaniards had buried a great quantity of treasure here, but all efforts to discover the same have been unsuccessful. In 1863 Mr. Wilks disinterred a large iron chest near the spot, but the treasure, if any, had been previously taken away. The present Custom-house is elegant and commodious, but subject to inundation at high tides: that portion next the Plaza is used as the National Government-house, and was twice burned in 1867. In the upper story are the President's saloons, and here foreign ministers are received. At the entrance facing the Recoba arch, is a portico surmounted by the national flag. In the civil war of 1859 the building was occupied jointly by English, American, and French marines, with artillery. Near the corner of Calle Balcarce is the Congress-hall, a small amphitheatre, where the Chambers meet daily during the session, from May to November. The hall was built in 1863 by Sr. Larguía: it holds 800 persons, and the public galleries are accessible by a wretched winding-stair, while the ventilation of the hall is also insufficient. The members speak sitting down. The policeman at the door will admit no one with a walking-stick. The ante-chamber forms a large waiting-room, where maté is served to the Deputies: the other rooms are occupied by the secretaries and servants. On this site was the old barrack for National Guards. The north side of the Plaza is made up of the Colon theatre, the livery stables of Allinson and Malcolm, and two large buildings at the corners of Calle Mayo used for furnished lodgings and offices. Between the Custom-house and the Paseo Julio is the terminus of the Northern Railway tramway, and at this point it is proposed to build a grand station, where the four city railways shall

converge. In former times, political offenders and others were shot in this Plaza. Pillado states that this plaza was formerly one with that of Victoria, but at the beginning of the present century it went by the name of Plaza de Perdices (partridge square) because the vendors of game and poultry had their stands here. In 1822, when all the streets and plazas received new names, it was designated by its present title in honor of the revolution against Spain. In the first plan of the city this square is given to the Adelantado or Governor. A fort called after San Baltazar of Austria stood on the site now occupied by that part of the Government-house which faces the Recoba arch.

The *Plaza del Retiro*, sometimes called Plaza Marté, forms the N.E. point of the city, at the end of Calles Florida and Maypú, just over the gas works. It has an area of eight acres, say 42,000 square yards, and was first arranged as a public garden in 1860. In June, 1862, the equestrian statue of General San Martín was put up: it is cast in bronze, and was made in Paris, representing the hero of Argentine Independence crossing the Andes: he points to the streets Maypú and Chacabuco, called after his two great victories over the Spaniards. Critics find fault with the horse's tail, but the figure is altogether bold and graceful. The marble pedestal is fifteen feet high, and the statue fifteen feet more. There are seats in various parts of the garden, and the band on Sunday afternoons often draws a concourse of people. The barrack of the Retiro has accommodation for 1,000 men; it formed a part of Beresford's attack on the city in 1806: a dreadful explosion occurred in 1865, blowing up a great portion of the building, and killing seventy men. The steam saw-mill, or «carpintería mecánica» of M. Emile Landois, was the first of the kind in these countries, and inaugurated by Governor Valentín Alsina in May 1857. M. Landcis introduced the most improved machinery from France and the United States, and employs eighty operatives. At the other end of the Plaza is a fine house, built in English fashion, called Quinta de Laprida; it was for some years occupied by Dr. Scrivener, and is now an English school, under the direction of Dr. White. There is a good view of the city from this plaza. At the foot of the hill is the Retiro Station of the Northern Railway. The city records relate that the Retiro derives its name from having been under the early Spaniards, the retreat of a hermit, whose name, however, is not preserved. In 1702, when the English carried on a slave trade between Africa and the River Plate, a company of British merchants established here a depot for slaves, and built that part of the barrack which looks westward. Towards the close of the 18th century the other wing, now occupied by a park of light artillery, was erected; and in 1818 the

centre of the edifice. Between 1800 and 1818 the site was used as a Bull-ring, which was pulled down in the latter year, and the materials were used for the barrack. In 1808 the square was called Campo de Gloria, alluding to the success of the patriot forces which marched from this point against General Beresford and re-conquered the city, in 1806. Subsequently, in 1822, the name was changed to Plaza Marte.

The *Plaza Lorea* is ten blocks west of Plaza Victoria, between Calles Rivadavia and Victoria, and derives its name from Don Isidro Lorea, a neighbour of this locality, who was killed along with his wife in the defence of this point of the city against General Whitelocke's troops. Formerly it was the rendezvous of bullock-carts from the South. In 1860 an effort was made to sink an Artesian well; after a great outlay, it proved a failure. The Lorea market was established in 1864. The Plaza was originally known as Plaza de Piedad.

The *Plaza Monserrat*, at the junction of Calles Belgrano and Buen Orden, is a small square, about two acres in extent, deriving its name from the adjoining church of Our Lady of Monserrat. Behind the Plaza, in Calle Lima, is the temporary station of the tramway running to the Southern terminus in the Plaza Constitucion. In 1860 the Plaza was rented out to a Circus Company, but now it is neatly arranged, with trees and seats. The proper name of this square is Plaza General San Martín, but it is usually known by the name given it by the first settlers. In 1808 it was ordered to be designated as Plaza de Fidelidad in commemoration of the fidelity of the negroes, Indians, and cross-breeds who formed a volunteer battalion and drilled in this place to aid in repelling the English invasions of 1806 and 1807. In 1822 the name was changed to Plaza Buen Orden; and again in 1849 Rosas varied it by calling the Plaza after the hero of Argentine Independence, putting up at the same time on each corner the following inscription—"Campaign of the Andes, from December 12th, 1816, to February 12th, 1817."

The *Plaza del Parque* is situated in the west-end of town, and derives its name from the Artillery magazine, where some rare old guns are still preserved. The plaza covers eight acres, and is nicely laid out, with a casino in the centre, and merry-go-rounds for children. A band plays every Sunday afternoon, but the company is not so fashionable as at the Retiro. The Western Railway bisects the plaza diagonally, and there are some fine houses in the neighborhood. In 1861 it was made a public garden, with paradise trees, seats, and railings. On the north side is the magnificent residence of Señor Miró, surrounded by neat gardens. The Western Railway terminus is on the east side—and here was started the first railway in the River

Plâte. This line belongs to the Provincial Government, and runs as far as Chivilcoy, 101 miles westward. It is being prolonged to Bragado.

The *Plaza Libertad* is a small square of four acres, close to the Parque ; in 1862 it was laid out and planted, previous to which time the bullock-carts used to encamp here. As yet, there are few fine houses, although the situation is high and favorable. This square, previous to 1822, was known as Hueco de Doña Engracia, that being the name of the lady who benevolently ceded it to the city for a public square. Adjacent to this square, in Calle Libertad, is the French Hospital, under charge of the «Sœurs de Charité».

The *Plaza Independencia*, at the junction of Calles Independencia and Buen Orden, is in the south end, covering an area of 3 acres, and recently laid out as a public garden. It was formerly called Plaza de Concepcion, from the adjoining church of that name, the roof of which fell in (1860) while in course of construction: the edifice is now nearly finished. Beside the church is a «corralon» sometimes used for a barrack. In the siege of 1859 the Plaza was made an artillery depot. Hard-by is the institute of Los Ejercicios, a house of detention for women who may have been guilty of minor offences. The Plaza is called after the Independence of the Argentine Republic, proclaimed at Tucuman, July 9th, 1816.

The *Plaza Constitucion*, at the extreme south point of the city, is a large, open space, covering about twenty acres. All the bullock-carts from the South, with wool and hides, encamp here, to the number of several hundreds, although they are going very much out of fashion since the opening of the Southern Railway. Large deposit stores or «barracas» are in the neighbourhood. The tramway runs through the Plaza, and the Southern terminus is a handsome and commodious structure: the Southern Railway runs out seventy-two miles, to Chascomus. A little beyond the Plaza are the Mataderos where cattle are killed for the city markets. The brokers have a club and reading-room in the Plaza, where they meet to transact business. The busy wool-season is from November to March.

The *Plaza Once de Setiembre*, at the extreme west of the city, has an area of twelve acres ; it is the great produce market for the western and northern districts. During the wool season this place is crowded with Irish sheep-farmers: Mr. Duggan does the chief business with his countrymen, and has large deposit stores in the Plaza. The Once de Setiembre (11th of September) is so called in commemoration of a revolution on that day (1852) which expelled General Urquiza from Buenos Ayres; an insignificant statue once decorated the Plaza, but it has been removed to the Parque casino. The new workshops of the Western Railway are worthy

of note, and behind them is Mr. Ryan's «lavadero» for washing sheepskins. There are some large mills, and Demarchi's ice-factory, in the neighbourhood. The Plaza is twenty-three «cuadras», nearly two miles, west of Plaza Victoria, and an omnibus plies every quarter-hour, fare \$5. It is also the first station on the Western Railway, being one and a-half miles from the Parque terminus.

MARKETS.

There are five city markets for the supply of meat, vegetables, poultry, fruit, fish, flowers, singing-birds, butter, cheese, eggs, &c. Beef and mutton are brought in carts from the mataderos; vegetables and fruit are mostly supplied by the Italian «quinteros» of the suburbs; the river always gives an abundance of dorado, pejerrey, bagre, and other excellent kinds of fish; the railway trains bring in a profusion of partridge, duck, and domestic poultry; and the «chaereros» of Moron, Quilmes, &c., raise most of the butter and eggs. Moreover, fruit is often brought from Montevideo or Brazil, and sometimes cheese and butter from the Swiss colonies of Entre Rios or Santa Fé. The best potatoes come from Baradero, the Carapachay islands and Chivilcoy; the best peaches from Point Santiago, Ensenada; the best meat is that killed in the camp, and brought in by rail; and the best butter is that from English-bred cows. The city is supplied with milk by a number of Basque «lecheros,» who come in on horseback every morning from Quilmes, Lomas de Zamora, and Moron. The pork raised in the country is to be avoided, the pigs being usually fed in the saladeros. Game is always abundant and cheap; poultry is very dear. The best hour for marketing is five o'clock A.M. It is necessary to beware of buying «tired» beef, which looks sound, but is apt to cause diarrhœa. The usual market prices are as follows:—Beef, \$1 per lb; fish, \$3; potatoes, \$1; vegetables, \$2; partridges, \$10 per pair; ducks, \$10; chickens, \$25; turkeys, \$40 each; butter, \$15 per lb; eggs, \$10 per doz.; mutton, \$10 per quarter; peaches, \$1 per doz.

The *Old Market* is at the corner of Calles Potosi and Peru, and is as old as the city itself. It was formerly very unclean and inconvenient, till Messrs. Urien rebuilt it in its present form, in 1864: it is still much too small, not quite two acres, and is surrounded on all sides with houses, preventing proper ventilation. Until 1859 it was the only market in the city. The fees for market stalls form a part of the municipal revenue, and no one can open a shop for meat or vegetables within a certain distance (half-a-mile or so) of any of the markets. The chief entrances to the Old

Market are at the corners of Calles Potosi, Chacabuco, and Moreno. In 1865 some excavations were made opposite to the University, when a quantity of long hair was found in an old well: the site had been, at the beginning of this century, occupied by a barrack for the Blandengues or militia frontier regiment, who, on being ordered to cut their hair short, mutinied and were only quelled after much bloodshed. The Old Market is in the most central and populous part of the town.

The *Mercado del Plata*, at the junction of Calles Artes and Cuyo, was built in 1839 and called «The New Market,» occupying an area of less than two acres. It was formerly called Plaza de Union, because here the patriots assembled to expel Whitelocke. In 1822 the name was changed to Plaza Artes. It was partly burnt down in 1863. The stall-keepers are mostly Italians, and the market is always well supplied. It is the only market in the N.E. corner of the town.

The *Mercado del Comercio* was erected in 1862 and inaugurated by General Mitre: it occupies a small square ($\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre) that was formerly called Plaza de Comercio, and previous to 1822 known as Plaza de Residencia. This market answers for the extreme south end of the city, being ten cuadras S. of Plaza Victoria.

The *Mercado de Lorea* was opened by Governor Saavedra in 1864, adjacent to the Plaza Lorea, and covering about one acre. It is fitted up with great taste, but does not belong to the Municipality, the owners being several private parties who purchased the right to open the market on their own account, for the benefit of the large population in the west end of the town: it is situate eight cuadras west of the Old Market.

The *Mercado de Independencia*, at the corner of Calles Independencia and Lima, is less than an acre in extent, and not so well supplied as the other markets. It was opened in 1866, for the S.W. quarter of the city.

The *Mercado del Norte* was opened by Don Eduardo Madero in 1867, in a site formerly used as a nursery, at the junction of Calles Florida and Cordoba. It covered an area of two acres, and was intended to supply the north end of the town, being fitted up in excellent style. It has not, however, proved successful, and is now used as a Customs deposit, called the Aduana Chica, where all cargoes by steamers from abroad are deposited: it is the great bonded warehouse of foreign importers.

CHAP. III.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.

GOVERNMENT-HOUSE, POST-OFFICE, POLICIA.

THE *National Government-House*, in Plaza 25 de Mayo, is an unsightly and irregular edifice: it was twice partially burnt in 1867, when many valuable documents were lost. The President's saloons, upstairs, are fine and airy, with a good view of the port: here the Foreign Ministers are received when presenting their credentials. The various Departments of the Interior, Foreign Affairs, Finance, Instruction, and War, have their offices in the same building: office hours from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. The offices of the Tesoreria and Contaduria are on the ground floor.

The *Stamp Office* is in the new Custom-house, open from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., for the sale of National stamped paper. Thirty days are allowed by law for stamping notes or documents of any kind. After that period any unstamped paper brought before any court must pay a fine ten times the amount of the proper stamp. Old stamps, not used, may be exchanged.

The *Provincial Stamp Office* is in the Government-house, Calle Moreno, and here all documents, except for the Custom-house or Federal Courts, must be stamped.

The *Post-Office*, 115 Calle Bolivar, is lodged in very small and inconvenient premises. Mr. Posadas has greatly reformed this branch of the public service, but there is still great room for improvement, if the revenue would admit. The principal hall for despatch of business is well arranged and has a bust of Rivadavia. Mr. Hansen and others of the officials speak

English. Office hours in summer, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., and in the evening from 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.: in winter from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. On Sundays and holidays, from 9 A.M. to noon; but when the mails from Europe arrive the office is kept open indefinitely. Over 4,000,000 papers and letters pass through the office in the year. There are branch-offices at the Captain of the Port's and the various railway stations. Letters are delivered through town twice a day. The mails are despatched every day to the principal towns in the province of Buenos Ayres, viz.—1. By the Western Railway to Flores, San Martin, Moron, Merlo, Moreno, Matanzas, Lujan, Mercedes, Chivilcoy, Las Heras, and Chacabuco: there are diligences plying from these various stations, which take mails to the following towns: Pilar, Capilla del Señor, San Antonio, Arrecifes, Lobos, Saladillo, 25 de Mayo, Giles, Fortin de Areco, Salto, Rojas, Pergamino, Junin, Navarro, Bragado, and Nueve de Julio. 2. By the Northern Railway to Belgrano, San Isidro, San Fernando, Tigre, and Conchas: the steamboats from the Tigre take mails three times a week to Zarate, Baradero, San Pedro, San Nicolas, Rosario, Santa Fé, Paraná, and Gualeguay. 3. By the Southern Railway to Barracas, Lomas de Zamorra, San Vicente, Chascomus, and intermediate stations, from which the diligences radiate to Ranchos, Cañuelas, Monte, Las Flores, Tapalquen, Dolores, Pila, Vecino, Monsalvo, Ajó, Tordillo, Mar-Chiquita, Loberia, Tandil, Juarez, and Azul. 4. By the Boca railway, to the Boca and Barracas. 5. The diligence goes twice a week to Quilmes, Ensenada, and Magdalena. 6. To Bahia Blanca and Patagones by steamer once a month. 7. To Cordoba, Tucuman, Salta and the northern provinces three times a week, via Rosario. 8. To San Luis, Mendoza, and San Juan, once a week, via Rosario. 9. To Chile, Peru, and the other Spanish republics, once a week, via Rosario and Mendoza. 10. To Corrientes and Paraguay by steamer twice a week. 11. To Santa Fé twice a week. 12. To Salto, Paysandú, Concepcion and other ports of the Uruguay twice a week. 13. To Montevideo every evening. 14. To Europe by the French packet and the English packets every month, as also by the Liverpool, London, and Marseilles lines of steamers. 15. To Brazil via Montevideo by the Brazilian, English, and French mail-steamers, eight times a month. All letters must be prepaid, except those directed to the President, Governors, or Ministers of State, and any letters found unstamped, in the Buzon, will be detained and published, as well as those without a direction. Letters may be certified or registered, for greater security. The post-office will take no letters outside the mail-bags: ship-captains or passengers having letters must deliver them on arrival to the Captain of the Port. Army-letters are carried free. Letters uncalled for are

published every three months, and burned at the end of the year in presence of the proper authorities, after first taking out any documents that may be of value. It is prohibited to send money or articles of value, through the post, even in registered letters: such articles must be forwarded through steamboats or other agencies; samples of goods through the Custom-house. Special couriers for private parties pay ten cents per league, besides the usual postage. The law of 1863 fixes the posting charges in the upper provinces at one real (6d.) per league for each horse. The post-house keepers must always provide travellers with horses, and give them hospitality at conventional terms. Parties carrying unstamped letters are fined \$50 or imprisoned for six months. Robbing the mail is punishable with four years penal service. The tariff for all letters is five cents (or \$1½ Buenos Ayres currency) for letters not exceeding ¼ oz.; ten cents for ½ oz., and so on. Registering a letter costs twenty-five cents extra. Books, pictures, music, &c. pay five cents per lb. Newspapers for all parts go free. This does not include the charges made in foreign countries, viz., England or France, for letters or papers carried by the mail-steamers. Street delivery in town is charged five cents extra. Boxes are set apart in the Correo for the chief mercantile houses, to the number of 800, at a charge of \$200 m.c. per annum. The stamps newly made by the New York bank-note company are very neat, and as follows—Rivadavia's head, pink, five cents; General Belgrano's, green, ten cents; General San Martín's, blue, fifteen cents. The Postmaster-General, Señor Posadas, has authority over all the postmasters in the fourteen Argentine Provinces; they are 160 in number. On the right of the «patio» are hung around the wall alphabetical lists of letters not yet called for, with the proper number attached. Strangers must either produce a document of their identity, or seek assistance at the *Standard* office, close by, at 74 Calle Belgrano. The house at present occupied by the Correo was built by Don Martín Rodríguez de Vega, who bequeathed it for benefit of the Ejercicios asylum. It is proposed now to purchase the Bolsa and convert it into a post-office. The first Correo established in Buenos Ayres was by Don Domingo Basabilvaso, in 1748.

The *Police Department* is in Plaza Victoria; the Chief of Police has two secretaries, a treasurer, 28 clerks, two physicians, a jailer, a watchmaker, 21 commissaries, 17 sergeants, 129 vigilantes, and 240 serenos. The city is divided into 14 Sections, each of which is under the care of a commissary, who arrests offenders, and levies fines for breach of municipal regulations. When he arrests anyone he must send in a report of same within twenty-four hours: he cannot enter a house without a written order, or in cases of

flagranti delicto. The policemen wear swords, and always go on horseback : they do not go on beats as in Europe, but can only be found at the Comisaria of the section. Minor offences are punishable by fine, or detention for an equivalent number of hours. The Correctional Judge tries ordinary police cases, but there is appeal to the superior tribunals. In cases of any serious crime the offender is removed from the prison of the Policia to that of the Cabildo. The serenos, or night-watchmen, are natives of Galicia : they sing the hours from 11 P.M. to 5 A.M., and carry a pistol, a cutlass, and a lantern. Serenos were first got up by voluntary subscription in 1834, and shortly afterwards established by law : there are 60 mounted and 180 on foot, under the direction of an Adjutant-major and seven Adjutants. The annual cost of the serenos is about \$1,300,000. The police service is miserably defective, but happily the inhabitants are in general orderly and well-conducted. It is intended by Government to send to England or the United States for police-officers, so as to organize a proper force for the city. There is a fire-engine attached to the Policia, but it has never proved of any use.

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS, LIBRARY, LEGISLATURE.

The *Provincial Government-house* was built by Rosas, and occupies half a «cuadra» between Calles Bolivar, Moreno, and Peru. The entrance is in Calle Moreno, and around a spacious court-yard are the various public offices. The Governor of Buenos Ayres has his apartments on the right ; an aide-de-camp receives visitors in the ante-chamber. The Minister of Government, the Inspector of Arms, and other officials, have offices on the left. The Finance Department is in the second «patio.» Parties wishing to inspect the Contribucion Directa books for the city or province can do so free of charge : they form a complete register of the various properties, their owners, and valuation. The tax for «patentes,» or licenses, for the various trades and professions, is payable at an office in this building, with separate entrance in Calle Moreno.

The *State Library* is in Calle Moreno, opposite the Government-house, occupying seven saloons in the upper story. There are 18,740 volumes, and 101 manuscripts, most of which belonged to the Jesuits, and are valuable for their antiquity ; there is also a number of foreign works in all languages, some on general science, others on South America. The chief librarian is Don José Marmol, the poet. It is a pity that there is no catalogue. The assistant librarians will procure any book that is required, and also supply pen and ink to take notes, if necessary. The library is

open to the public, free, on all week days, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. No smoking or conversation allowed. The average attendance of visitors does not exceed a dozen daily. The library was established by Moreno in 1810, but suffered afterwards to fall into decay. In 1822 there were 20,000 volumes, and in 1854 only 15,000. Since the latter date it has been much increased, and the publishers of all new works in the country have to present a copy. There is a complete collection of all newspapers published here and in Montevideo.

The *Chambers of the Legislature of Buenos Ayres* have their principal entrance in Calle Peru, with a side entrance for the public in Calle Moreno, next the State Library. The Chamber is small but elegant, in the shape of an amphitheatre, dimly lighted from the roof. The President and Secretaries of the Chamber sit on a raised bench, under which are the reporters. The galleries for the public give accommodation to 400 persons. The Senators and Deputies meet here alternately, and the Provincial Ministers attend when summoned. The ante-chambers are small and old-fashioned: here the members take *máte*. There is a suite of rooms occupied by clerks and officials. The Legislature is composed of twenty-four Senators and fifty Deputies, elected by the various *partidos* or electoral districts of the Province of Buenos Ayres. The Hall of Session was built in 1822, by Don Prospero Catelin, and repaired in 1864. It occupies the court-yard of the old Jesuit building, standing on the exact spot formerly occupied by the dungeon in which the followers of the famous cacique Tupac Amaru were confined after their attempted revolution in 1780.

TOPOGRAPHIC OFFICE, ARCHIVES, COMMISSARIAT.

The *Topographic Department* is in the premises formerly devoted to the Tribunal of Commerce, to which access is gained by a steep staircase from Calle Peru. This office was founded by Rivadavia in 1824, and is managed by Don Saturnino Salas and an efficient staff of civil engineers, comprising Messrs. German Kuhl, Pedro Benoit, Antonio Malaver, and Ignacio Casagemas. This department published in 1866 an admirable map—six feet by four and a-half—of the Province of Buenos Ayres, showing minutely every estancia and all the natural features of the various *partidos*. It also published in 1867 a similar map of the city and suburbs. The business of the office is to keep a correct register of the sub-divisions of property, to examine and approve all surveys of land, to give licenses for building houses in town, and to make whatever charts, maps, or plans may be required by the authorities. It also serves as an academy for surveyors,

who have to undergo a severe examination in the theory and practice of surveying before being allowed to practise their profession. The chief of the department has a salary of \$6,000 a month.

The *Department of Schools* adjoins the last-mentioned, and is under the charge of Don Manuel J. Peña. Here are deposited the supplies of books and furniture for the State schools. After the fall of Rosas, in 1852, Dr. Vicente Fidel Lopez was named Minister of Instruction, and undertook to re-model the system of education: in October of same year the Department of Schools was established. Don Santiago Estrada is the present Inspector of Schools.

The *State Archives* are in the same building, under the direction of Don Manuel R. Trelles, assisted by seven clerks: here are kept the valuable records of Buenos Ayres since the Conquest, which throw such light on the history of the Vice-royalty of La Plata and the neighboring countries of Spanish America. Important documents and title-deeds, which belong to Paraguay, Tucuman, the Cuyo provinces, and the Banda Oriental, still remain in this department. Sr. Trelles also publishes a half-yearly volume of statistics referring to the Province of Buenos Ayres: the information at his disposal is so defective, that his efforts are the more creditable. The contents of the archives are—7,500 bundles of documents, 6,167 account-books, 8,700 printed books and pamphlets, and a number of periodicals. Since 1857 Señor Trelles has published twenty volumes of ancient records and statistical reports.

The *National Statistical Department*, situate at 64 Calle Belgrano, is under the direction of Mr. Damian Hudson; this gentleman, who is eminently qualified for the post, is a native of San Juan, and son to an American settler. He compiles the various official returns from the fourteen provinces, which are scattered and imperfect. A national census has been ordered, and will probably be carried out on the wind-up of the Paraguayan war. The Customs' Department publishes its own statistics half-yearly.

Commissariat-General.—This department was formerly situate in Calle Bolivar, adjoining the Provincial Government-house; it is now located in the National Government-house, Plaza Mayo. The Commissary-General, Don José Luis Amadeo, has to contract for and examine all supplies of provisions, clothing, &c., for the army and navy, as well as for the friendly Indian tribes of Calfucurá, Coliqueo, and others on the frontier. Tenders for such supplies must be lodged at this office, which also gives the order for payment when the goods have been duly examined and approved.

PARQUE, CONGRESS HALL, CAPITANIA.

The *Parque*, or Artillery Magazine, situate in the Plaza Parque, covers an entire «cuadra.» It was founded by the famous patriot Moreno, who served as Minister of War in the epoch of Independence. The collection of guns is more remarkable for antiquity than usefulness, most of them being old bronze pieces of the Spaniards, with quaint inscriptions—«Ultima ratio regum,» «El Rey Carlos me hizo,» &c. Visitors are admitted gratis, and the stranger will be amused to see that smoking is not prohibited: the magazine, however, is said to contain no powder. Cannon balls are piled up in the yard, and the old guns are exposed to the inclemency of the weather: some interesting old cannons are still seen at some of the street corners through town. The powder depots are outside the city, near Palermo. The Parque has seven large store-rooms, in one of which was recently kept one of Krupp's steel guns; there are also five workshops, a hall of arms, and a number of apartments for use of the officials and operatives.

The *Congress-hall*, in Plaza Mayo, was erected by President Mitre's Government for the first united Argentine parliament on the removal of the metropolis to Buenos Ayres, and inaugurated in May 1864. The front is small and unpretending: the chief entrance, surmounted by the National arms, consists of three iron-gates, opening into a marble portico, and only the members of Congress, public dignitaries, or Foreign Ministers are admitted by this access. The right wing of the building is devoted to the use of the Public Credit Department, and on the left is the entrance for the public to the galleries of the Hall. Congress is composed of Vice-President Alsina, 28 Senators, and 49 Deputies, there being two Senators for each province, and Deputies in the following ratio—Buenos Ayres 12, Cordoba 6, Corrientes 4, Santiago 4, Tucuman 3, Catamarca 3, Salta 3, San Juan 2, Mendoza 2, San Luis 2, Jujuy 2, Rioja 2, Entre Rios 2, Santa Fé 2. The sessions open in the first week of May and close in October, but there is usually an extraordinary session till November to conclude the current business of the year. The Deputies receive a salary of \$4,000 s. per annum: some of them reside altogether in Buenos Ayres.

The *National Credit Office* was organized on 16th November, 1863, and commenced its labors on January 2nd, 1864, the board being composed of Messrs. Lucas Gonzalez, Alejo Arocena, Manuel Zavaleta, José Maria Cantilo, and Martin Estrada, with the following employees: Don Juan Dominguez, secretary; Don Alfonso de Maria, treasurer; Don Ramon Rezabal, book-keeper; Don Cipriano Quesada, assistant clerk. The accounts immediately

submitted to their care were the following—1. The Public funds of October 1st, 1860, for \$3,000,000. 2. The provisional bonds of October 20th, 1863, for the Paraná bonds and Treasury notes up to 1st April, 1861. 3. The credits admitted by Government as lawfully proceeding from the Paraná floating debt, subsequent to April 1861. 4. The compensation awarded by law of November 1863 for «auxilios» given to Lavalle's army against Rosas. 5. Six per cents awarded by Congress for claims of indemnity. 6. The bonds and coupons given in payment of foreign claims for injuries sustained in the civil wars. 7. The petitions of the widows and relatives of Generals Lavalle, La Madrid, and Paz. The treasurer was to have charge of all funds for payment of coupons and amortization, but not to pay anything without written order from the chairman of the board. All coupons to be paid faithfully within the eight days fixed by law. The bonds were issued in five series, as follows: Serie A, \$100—Serie B, \$600—Serie C, \$1,000—Serie D, 2,600—Serie E, \$5,000, each having forty coupons annexed, one payable every quarter, and then burned. Whenever a coupon became payable it was necessary to present the whole Bond and have it compared with the corresponding block, which was cut zig-zag. Nevertheless a great forgery was discovered in October, 1868, immediately after President Sarmiento entered office, whereby it appeared that duplicate bonds, signed by the proper authorities, had been regularly admitted and the coupons paid for some years back. It was concluded that in the signing of so many thousand coupons several duplicates were introduced surreptitiously, and the parties suspected of the fraud were no longer in the country, nor was there any proof sufficiently inculcating anyone in particular. The Paraguayan war caused new loans and frequent emissions of Public Funds, all which are specified in the budget for 1869: see section A, page 191.

The *Provincial Credit Office*, 91 Calle Moreno, was established in 1821. The board consists of six persons named by Government, and an accountant who has a salary of \$4,000 a month. The accounts under their charge are as follows:—1. Original issue of six per cent. 28,000,000, and of four per cents. 2,000,000. 2. Issue of 10,000,000 six per cents in September 1856. 3. Issue of 12,000,000 six per cents in July 1858. All these sums are in the paper currency of Buenos Ayres, and the annual interest amounts to \$3,821,592m^c, or about £30,500 sterling, besides an amortization or sinking-fund of \$630,000m^c per annum, equivalent to one per cent. Until assumed by the National Treasury in 1864 there were two other debts at the charge of the Province, viz.: that of May 1859, for 20,000,000; and of June 1861 for 24,000,000; the annual interest of both amounting

to \$2,640,000^m, and the sinking-fund to \$920,000. The English loan of 1826, to Buenos Ayres, was also a provincial debt until assumed by the nation in 1864.

The *Capitania*, or Captain of the Port's office, is situate in Calle Mayo, opposite the English Church, with another entrance by Paseo Julio. The offices are open from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. All foreign vessels arriving from beyond the seas have to send their Bill of Health before being allowed to communicate with the shore: the captains have also to declare on arrival what cargo they bring, to whom consigned, date of departure from home and arrival here; if they bring passengers a list of same must be entered in the Capitania books, and any letters are handed over to the branch Post-office in this building. If the vessel be Argentine, or belonging to a flag that has no Consul here, all her papers must be lodged at the Capitania. The captains have also to report exactly on the condition of their vessels. Signal flags are used to communicate with the pontoon Castelli in the outer roads. The Capitania has a dungeon for refractory sailors: a guard is always mounted on the Paseo Julio entrance. Colonel Bustillos has a staff of twelve officials and thirty-six sailors, with three state barges: he has recently received jurisdiction over all the Capitancias of the Republic. The branch Post-office receives letters for Montevideo, &c., up to half an hour before sailing of steamer. For any matters before or after hours, apply at the Ayudantia, next the guard-house at the Paseo Julio. No one is allowed to gallop by the Capitania.

MUNICIPALITY, LAW COURTS.

The *Municipality*, or Corporation, holds its meetings in a saloon over the Policia: its charter dates from October 1854, and it is composed of a President, thirteen members, and twenty-four «suplentes»: each parish furnishes a member, and the «suplentes» are elected to take his place in case of sickness or absence. The Minister of Interior is an ex-officio president, but never attends, the Provincial Government each year naming the Vice-President from among the members. There are two secretaries, eighteen clerks, and three servants. The revenue exceeds \$12,000,000 per annum, and is spent in this manner: hospital and lunatic asylum, \$2,000,000; serenoes, &c., \$2,000,000; schools, \$1,000,000; scavenger carts, \$1,000,000; clerks and fireworks, \$1,000,000; paying, &c., \$5,000,000. The items of income are—public lottery, \$4,000,000; sereno tax, \$2,000,000; market stalls, \$1,000,000; mataderos, \$1,000,000;

licenses, &c., \$4,000,000. Foreigners are sometimes elected to serve on the Board, but they generally resign. The street lighting is done by the Gas Company; there are 1,722 lamps, for which the company levies payment at each house. In the suburbs there are 1,483 oil lamps, belonging to the Municipality. The neglected state of the city is unsusceptible of exaggeration, and each succeeding Board throws all the blame on the preceding one. The Corporation of 1868 was expelled by an indignation meeting of the citizens, who formed a Committee of Public Health in its room; but the Board was reinstated by Government shortly afterwards. A better election of members is hoped for the year 1869.

The *Archbishop's Palace* is a handsome two story edifice, next the Cathedral: the reception hall, in the upper story, is a magnificent apartment, with a bust of Pope Pius IX. and some pictures. The building was completed in April 1862, since when the Archbishop resides here, along with his secretary, chaplain, and three other clergymen.

Courts of Law.—There are the ordinary Courts of *Primera Instancia* in the Cabildo, where civil and criminal causes are tried: attached to these Courts are the offices of the escribanos or notaries, for all judicial proceedings, transfer of property, &c.: most of the escribanias date back many years, and have records from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, being used as registry offices in all matters of assignment, mortgage, &c. The Tribunal of Commerce is next to the Topographic Department, in Calle Peru; its proceedings are guided by the «Codigo de Comercio» framed for Buenos Ayres. The Superior Tribunal of Justice is composed of ten judges, and sits in the Cabildo, to hear appeals from the ordinary civil, criminal, and commercial Courts: it has immediate jurisdiction over the Justices of Peace in the camp, and has a Fiscal or Attorney-General, two reporters, a notary, and other employees. Each of the Judges has a salary of \$6,000 a month. Every Saturday they visit the prisons, to see the prisoners and how their cases stand; but the proceedings of this and the other Courts are so tedious that a reform is much called for. The «Code of the Indies,» and other obsolete Spanish statutes, were hitherto the sole system of procedure; but some new codes have been compiled and will shortly be adopted. In the camp there are three tribunals; one at San Nicolas, north; one at Mercedes, west; and one at Dolores, south: these are often badly attended to, as there are few lawyers in town willing to take such responsibility for a poor remuneration. The High Court of Justice is one of the supreme powers of the State, viz.: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial, and the Government cannot interfere in its affairs, which secures to the tribunal perfect liberty of action. The public never attend the hearing of lawsuits, and

formerly the proceedings were altogether secret: by decree of November 12, 1868, President Sarmiento has ordered the Fiscal to publish all suits in one of the daily papers. There is no trial by jury, unless in cases of press prosecution for sedition or libel. Witnesses usually give their depositions in writing, instead of orally. The President of the High Court has jurisdiction in cases of Protestants seeking a marriage license. The Supreme Federal Court adjoins the Provincial Government-house, in Calle Bolivar: it was established in 1863, and consists of five Judges. All matters in which foreigners are concerned, either against the Government or private parties, or questions between any of the Federal provinces, are finally decided by this Court, to which, also, there is appeal from all other tribunals.

Academy of Jurisprudence, founded January 16th 1815, by Manuel A. Castro. The institute is under the direction of the High Court of Justice, and meets twice a week at the University, where lectures and imaginary lawsuits take place. The students must have already taken their degree as Doctor of Laws, and cannot practise at their profession till after two years attendance at the Academy. The session is from March to November. The average number of students is thirty-five. There are 120 advocates in Buenos Ayres.

BOARD OF HEALTH, LOTTERY, CITY PRISONS.

Faculty of Medicine, founded in 1852, by Drs. Fernandez, Montesdeoca, Alvarez, Albarelllos, Garcia, Muniz, Cuenca, Gomez, and Ortiz Velez. The board at present consists of eight professors, eight substitutes, and a secretary, and resides at 53 Calle Corrientes: the studies comprise—clinical surgery, operations, midwifery, diseases of women and children, materia medica, therapeutics, pharmacology, hygiene, nosography, pathology, anatomy, medical jurisprudence, physiology, &c. The term of studies is for six years, the only degree given being that of M.D. Foreign practitioners, although having diplomas from European universities, are not allowed to practise without previous examination of the Faculty of Medicine, and in this their chief difficulty will be the Spanish language. The academical year begins on 1st March; the examinations commence on December 1st, after which there is vacation. The school of medicine is opposite San Telmo church, and was built in 1858 out of the proceeds of fines levied from foreign physicians, apothecaries, midwives, and bleeders. There are two large lecture rooms, a library, a school of pharmacy and natural history, and a small museum; besides the grand hall for the conferring of degrees.

Vaccination and Board of Health, situate next the Provincial Chambers in Calle Peru. The first vaccinator in Buenos Ayres was the Rev. Saturnino Segurola, and in 1821 Rivadavia established the department, subject to certain municipal regulations. The annual number of vaccinations in town at the «vacuna» offices is about 2,000. Besides the head office in Calle Perú, there are branches in Calles Defensa, Santa Fé, and Santiago del Estero; office hours 12 to 2 in winter, 5 to 7 in summer. The Board of Health was created in 1852, and is supposed to watch over the public health, inspect markets and private houses, &c.: this is merely imaginary, and the Board has no real existence.

Emigrants' Home, situate No. 8 Calle Corrientes, under the direction of Mr. Van Bartels, provides board and lodging gratis for distressed immigrants, until they find employment. It is supported partly by the National Government and partly by subscription, but not more than 5 per cent. of immigrants seek its refuge. The expense of the institution amounts to about £1,000 per annum. The first immigration committee was established in this city in 1824.

Lottery of the «Beneficencia», situate at 168 Calle Bolivar, was established in its present form in 1852, but the institution existed many years before as a source of public revenue. It produces at present about \$5,000,000 m^c per annum, in weekly and monthly lotteries: the weekly has a prize of \$120,000, the monthly \$300,000, the prizes being publicly drawn and then published. Of the total receipts 75 per cent. is given in prizes, 10 per cent. goes in expenses, and the rest (15 per cent.) is devoted to the charitable institutions under care of the Municipality.

Public Lands Office, in the Government-house, Calle Moreno, established in 1859, open daily from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Information may be obtained for soliciting land «in enfiteusis», renting Government lands, or buying same.

City Prisons.—There are three: that under the Cabildo is the principal, and is guarded by a company of soldiers expressly raised by the Provincial Government; formerly the National Guards of the city had to perform this irksome service. The prisoners are allowed to see their friends on Sundays and Thursdays. The Debtors' prison is in Calle Moreno, behind San Francisco church: persons guilty of misdemeanors are also confined here; visiting days as above. There is another prison called the Penitenciaría near San Telmo; but a proper jail is much needed, the escape of prisoners being at present a frequent occurrence.

MUSEUM AND UNIVERSITY.

The *Museum of Buenos Ayres* is, perhaps, the richest in the world in antediluvian fossil remains, and in late years it has been carefully managed by the distinguished German *savant*, Professor Burmeister. It is situate in Calle Peru, corner of Calle Potosi, opposite the Old Market. Rivadavia was the founder of the Museum (December 31, 1823), and it first occupied the upper story of Santo Domingo monastery. During the rule of Rosas it was much neglected, the only valuable collection being 736 mineral specimens brought from France. In 1854 the Society of Natural History of the Plate was formed, and donations quickly poured in from all quarters. M. Bravard (afterwards lost in the earthquake of Mendoza) lent good assistance; and in February 1862, President Mitre, through the Prussian Minister, Baron von Gulich, induced Dr. Burmeister to give up the museum of Halle and come out to take charge of that of our city. Under the present director it has undergone complete reform, and a saloon forty yards long, with three other apartments, is appropriated for the institution. In classifying the objects of exhibition, Dr. Burmeister divides them under three heads: artistic, historical and scientific. There is no work of art of any merit, but only some drawings or copies of pictures executed by students sent to Florence and Rome at the expense of the National Government; also a few portraits of distinguished individuals, which serve for curiosities. In the historic section are—three Egyptian mummies supposed to be about 4,000 years old, some Peruvian vases prior to the Spanish conquest, with gold and silver idols and some mummies: these Indian sepulchres are also found in San Juan, Rioja, and Catamarca, and Señor Lozana has presented two Peruvian mummies to the museum. The collection of coins numbers 415 from the time of Pompey to Antoninus Pius: it was purchased in France for £240 sterling. There are twenty-two enamelled pictures of the conquest of Mexico; supposed artist Miguel Gonzales; it was presented by Mr. Mackinlay. The standard of Juan de Garay used at the foundation of Buenos Ayres, with two old swords of that date. Among modern relics is the writing desk of Rivadavia and his coffin, General Lavalle's sword, and the ornamental wheel-barrow of the Southern railway inauguration; also an infernal machine used to attempt the assassination of Rosas. The most valuable collection is that of natural science, comprising zoological specimens of the present time and antediluvian fossils of animals no longer known on earth. M. Bravard counts fifty specimens of the latter found in Buenos Ayres. We have a complete «*Megatherium*,» presented by Dr. Muñoz, the hind-part of a «*Myloodon*»

robustus» found by Dr. Burmeister near the Rio Salado, and three kinds of «Mylodontes,» besides a «Scelidotherium»; a complete «Glyptodon» presented by Don David Lanata, the head of a «Toxydon,» and the fossil-teeth of an ante-diluvian horse from the Salado. The «mammiferi» comprise sixty-eight kinds in 110 specimens, of which forty belong to the San Martin collection recently purchased in France: the most important is the «Pichi-ciego» or «Chamyphorus retusus.» There are 1,500 bird specimens of 500 different kinds: one half from the San Martin collection; the rest from Europe, Brazil, and the provinces. The fish and amphibious specimens are of little value. The insects comprise a splendid variety of Brazilian butterflies, which cannot however be exposed to the light, but are kept in a dark room. In Botany we have samples of the beautiful woods of Paraguay, and an «herbarium,» of European plants imported from France. There is a valuable case of minerals from Chile, presented by the late Mr. Harratt; a box of geological strata perforated in Messrs. Sordeaux's artesian well of Barracas; a fossil willow trunk presented by Señor Pedriel. In the portico of the Museum may be seen an extraordinary wooden anchor, mounted with lead: this belonged to the Vermejo expedition of Mr. Cheney Hickman, who descended that river in 1852, but died of dysentery on the voyage and was buried on the Gran Chaco shore. There are also sundry fragments of a fossil whale, which reminds us that such remains have been found as far inland as Paraná city, 500 miles from the ocean, at a depth of sixty feet in the barranca or bluff. Dr. Burmeister has published a scientific dissertation on Palæontology, with special reference to the ante-diluvian treasures of Buenos Ayres, and complimentary allusions to the English geologists Lyell, Darwin, Owen, and others; also an essay on «Patagonian Macrauchenia,» illustrated with four handsome designs by the ill-fated Bravard. Respecting the Picaflor, or humming-bird, he gives eleven classes as inhabitants of the River Plate and Paraguay, although Azara reduces the number to six. He has also an essay on «Glyptodontes,» the most abundant fossils found in the country. Dr. Burmeister is member of twenty-six different literary societies, including some of the highest in Great Britain and North America. Valuable acquisitions are made from time to time, whenever the Government can supply Dr. Burmeister with funds for the purpose. In June 1867 a complete fossil monster called «Glyptodon Tuberculatus» was found near Villa Mercedes and purchased for \$15,000. About the same time was bought a collection of eighty-seven stuffed birds and animals from M. Chanalet, for the sum of \$35,000 mc. The total collection in the Museum may be summed up thus: zoological specimens 1,620, samples of mine-

ralogy 1,030, coins 2,120, objects of antiquity and fine arts 30. The Museum is open, free of charge, on all Sundays and holidays between the hours of 10 and 2.

The *University of Buenos Ayres* adjoins the Museum, also forming part of the block originally built by the Jesuits. It was founded on August 9th, 1821, by Governor Rodriguez, and his Minister, Rivadavia. The solemn inauguration took place on the 12th of same month in the College-church, Dr. Antonio Suarez being sworn in as first Rector. The premises were used as a barrack until very recently. It is at present under the direction of Dr. Juan Maria Gutierrez, a distinguished scholar, and the staff of professors is equally respectable. The studies embrace the usual classic and scientific courses, besides modern languages, and degrees are given in theology, law, and medicine. There is a library for the students, comprising over 2,000 works, presented by the rector and other donors. A complete chemical apparatus, with electric battery, &c. has been recently brought out from Italy.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The *Colegio Nacional*, formerly the Jesuit College, has spacious premises adjoining the Church of San Ignacio. Up to 1863 it was used as an Ecclesiastical Seminary, under the direction of Rev. Dr. Aguero and Canon Aneiros, and contained ninety students. General Mitre's Government converted it into a Head Grammar School for all the Argentine provinces, confiding its management to Messrs. Jacques and Cosson: each province is allowed to send a certain number of boys for education, with board and lodging gratis. The sphere of studies is analogous to that of the University.

There are two city Model Schools: that called Catedral al Norte, in Calle Reconquista, was begun in May 1859 by public subscription, and solemnly inaugurated by the Governor of Buenos Ayres, President Derqui, and General Urquiza, on May 26th, 1860, the children of the schools assisting to the number of 8,000. The building is tasteful and commodious; the school-rooms are spacious, and well furnished with maps and books. Besides the ordinary classes, there is one of pupil-teachers in training as municipal school-masters. The branches of education are, science, modern languages, drawing, music, &c. The Model School of Catedral al Sur, was the first in these countries, having been originated by Don Domingo Sarmiento, then Director of Schools, and inaugurated on April 28th, 1858. The first board of Directors was composed of Messrs. Roque

Perez, Elizalde, Casares, Garcia, Toledo, Iraola, Billingham, Castro, and Pereyra: the funds were mostly raised by subscription. The premises adjoin the Provincial Government-house at the corner of Moreno and Perú, having been ceded by the Legislature for this express purpose: there are three large halls and others smaller, capable of accommodating 300 pupils. More than 1,000 youths have been educated here in the last eleven years, and a large proportion of these afterwards passed through the University. The studies include—Latin, English, French, German, mathematics, history, geography, drawing, music, and gymnastics. At first there was no charge for pupils, the institute being supported by voluntary subscription, but it became necessary to alter this, and the following scale of fees now rules—boarders, \$500; externs, \$100; externs with breakfast, \$150 per month. The Municipality maintains thirty free schools, for boys and girls, in the various city parishes and suburbs, which are attended by about 2,000 children of all ranks in society. The masters receive a salary of \$2,000 a month, assistants \$1,000, and mistresses \$1,300 (besides which the children's parents usually give them something). The expenditure entailed by these schools is set down at \$834,000 per annum. The Department of Schools was established in 1852, under the direction of Dr. Barros Pazos, then rector of the University: in 1855 it was entrusted to Don Domingo Sarmiento, who established in five years as many as seventy public schools. There are at present 142 municipal and state schools in the city and province of Buenos Ayres, at which 8,000 children are educated. There are also 125 private schools in the city; the best of these are English, at which the usual fees are, for boarders \$500, externs \$100 a month. The Sociedad de Beneficencia, composed of charitable ladies, has charge of seventeen free schools for girls in the city, and forty-five in the country districts. The Diocesan Seminary, directed by the Rev. Canon Brid, is situate in Calle Victoria, close to the English cemetery. The Jesuit College in Calle Parque, corner of Callao, is a large building with grounds covering the whole «cuadra.» There is another lay college at the Balvanera, directed by French priests who are called Padres Bayoneses. Besides the day schools in connection with the English, Scotch, American, and German churches, there are boarding-schools attached to the Irish convent, Calle Rio Bamba, and the French convent, Calle Cechabamba; also a day school kept by French nuns in Calle Rivadavia.

CHAP. IV.

CHURCHES AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

CHURCHES.

THE city is divided into eleven parishes, and contains some fine churches. Besides the Cathedral, there are fifteen churches, six chapels of ease, and four Protestant churches.

The *Cathedral* is situate in Plaza Victoria, with a massive colonnade and fine front. Its dimensions are spacious, rendering it one of the grandest temples in this continent. Don Juan de Garay, in 1550, first marked out the site, and there is a tradition that the first bricks made in the country were devoted to this church. The Jesuits commenced a larger structure in 1621, but it fell in A.D. 1752, and was rebuilt by the architect Rocha, in the form that now exists, excepting the façade. In 1822 Señor Catellin was entrusted with the completion of the work, but this was paralysed during forty years of civil war, being only finished in 1862. The interior is imposing, the nave presenting a brilliant spectacle on feast days, when crowded with a congregation numbering some thousands, and the roof hung with flags taken in the wars against Spain and Brazil. The high altar stands nearly under the dome, which, with the cupola, rises to a height of 130 feet. There are twelve chapels in the aisles, possessing little in the way of fine arts. A proper organ is much wanted, and the choir is inferior. The Archbishop's throne is on the right of the high altar; the seats for the canons are of carved wood. The sacristy and baptistery are beyond the

right transept, and have a few paintings; one was a picture of merit and an artist took it away, leaving the copy in its stead. This side of the church communicates with the episcopal palace. The Archbishop officiates on all great feasts: the last Mass on Sundays and holidays is at 1 P.M. On the left side, are the halls for use of the Chapter, and here are the portraits of all the prelates from Dr. Carranza down to Bishop Medrano, eighteen in number. Four were natives of Buenos Ayres (including the brothers Arregui), five never took possession of the sea, and six were removed or died abroad. On May 12th, 1622, Fray Pedro de Carranza, Bishop of La Plata and Apostolic commissioner, raised this church to the rank of cathedral, and was its first prelate. In 1866 the see was created an archbishopric, under Dr. Mariano Escalada. The chapter consists of nine canons and four honorary canons; besides ten chaplains, and a dozen choristers and sacristans.

The *Merced*, at the corner of Calles Cangallo and Reconquista, was built in 1768, and had formerly a convent of nuns attached. The convent is now in charge of the Sociedad de Beneficencia, who use it as an orphanage: an annual bazaar is held for its support, the articles of needlework being admirable. The church tower is used as a city observatory.

San Ignacio, corner of Bolivar and Potosi, is usually called the College church, because formerly belonging to the Jesuits, whose college was alongside. Although the Jesuit order was expelled in 1767, they are still allowed to keep schools in Buenos Ayres; but their college has long been expropriated by the State, and is now a secular school, with a good staff of professors. The exterior of the church is very fine, with two lofty turrets: the interior is rather sombre.

San Francisco, corner of Potosi and Defensa, belongs to the Franciscan monastery, and is remarkable for richness of decoration. The first mention of Franciscans in this city is about the year 1594, and it seems their convent was established in 1604. In the suppression of religious orders, in 1822, this community escaped; but the convents of the same order at the Recoleta and San Pedro were suppressed. The community now consists of thirty mendicant friars. The sacristy possesses some curious old pictures. The cloisters and corridors are finely vaulted.

San Roque is a chapel of ease, adjoining San Francisco, and set apart for the especial use of Irish residents. Canon Fahy, or another of the Irish clergy, celebrates Mass, and preaches in English, every Sunday at 11 A.M.

Santo Domingo, corner of Defensa and Belgrano, has a large nave, with aisles: the high altar and side chapels are richly gilt. The Dominican convent has a prior and twenty mendicant friars. It was established in

1591, and suppressed in 1822; but, in 1835, Fray Inchaurregui received permission from Government to re-establish the order. This church preserves rare and valuable trophies, which are hung from the dome on certain feast days: they consist of four English flags taken from Whitelocke's army in 1807—an artillery, a royal marine, and two infantry flags. In one of the belfry towers are seen twenty-four cannon shot, thrown by the English fleet from the roadstead, on the same occasion. Some of the Dominicans are very able preachers: this church is also remarkable for the splendor of its ceremonials and processions.

San Telmo, Calles Defensa and Comercio, dedicated to the patrón of sailors, is a small church on a high point overlooking the roadstead: a new belfry was erected last year. Adjacent to the church are the Men's Hospital and the Residencia Lunatic Asylum. The neighborhood, during the time of Rosas, was known as «Barrio del Alto,» and bore a bad name.

The *Concepcion*, adjoining Plaza Independencia, is a new church, from designs by Padre Marin. It remained unfinished for some years owing to the roof having fallen in, when some workmen were killed, in 1860.

Santa Catalina, in Calle Brazil, is a chapel of ease, built in 1860, in pursuance of a pious testament, with schools attached.

San Juan, Calles Potosi and Piedras, is attached to a convent of Capuchin nuns: the order was established here in 1749, by five nuns who came from Chile; the convent was first situate close to the church of San Nicolas, but afterwards removed to the present spacious premises. The order was excepted in the decree of suppression, in 1822, and has now thirty-six nuns, who live by alms and a small pension from Government. There are, however, some ladies of fortune among the community. The convent has a large garden, covering almost the entire block, in a very valuable situation. The church is attended by French priests.

Our *Lady of Monserrat*, adjoining the Plaza of the same name, is a handsome new church. The parish is reputed very rich, and the interior of the edifice is elegant and tasteful.

Las Salinas is the name of a chapel situate in Calles Victoria and Sarandi, attached to the Archbishop's college: the latter is under the direction of Canon Brid, and a staff of professors, including the Rev. Mr. Dillon. Another chapel is in construction in General Guido's quinta, Calle Potosi, by the Italian residents.

San Miguel, Calles Suipacha and Piedad, stands in the highest part of the city, and an extensive view is obtained from the belfry. There is a statue of Saint Michael over the entrance. An orphanage was at first attached to this church, and the Jesuit printing-press, from Cordova, was devoted to

its support. The orphanage is now attached to the Merced. San Miguel was founded in 1727 by Don Juan Alonzo Gonzalez, during the prevalence of a great plague in which the corpses were removed for interment by being tied to the horses' tails. Gonzalez was a native of Cadiz, and after his wife's death became a priest, bringing the first convent of Catalinas nuns from Tucuman to settle in this city. His son succeeded him as director of the Institute of Charity of San Miguel, which was suppressed in 1822: the second Gonzalez died in 1801, and there is a tasteful marble slab to his memory on the right of the altar.

San Nicolas de Bari, Calles Corrientes and Artes, is the favorite church of Italians, but has nothing of artistic merit calling for notice. The belfry has a public clock.

La Piedad is a small parish-church at the corner of Calles Piedad and Paraná. In the neighbourhood is a remarkable pine-tree, 100 feet high.

La Balvanera is a fine edifice, near the Plaza Once de Setiembre, with a college attached, under the charge of some French clergymen.

El Socorro, near the Plaza Retiro, is small and unpretending. Close to it is a garden that was formerly the British cemetery, until 1842, when Mr. Harratt purchased the present site in Calle Victoria.

Las Monjas, corner of Temple and San Martin, is a small church of some antiquity, attached to the convent of Dominican nuns, called Catalinas, whose order is very strict. The convent was founded in 1744 and was excepted from the suppression of 1822. There are forty nuns, each of whom at entering brings a small dowry; for the rest they depend on public charity: their garden occupies the whole block. The military of the Retiro attend Mass here on Sundays.

The *Irish Convent of Sisters of Mercy* is situate at the corner of Calles Rio Bamba and Tucuman; it has a chapel, schools, and hospital, under the patronage of St. Joseph. The community has its origin from Baggot Street Convent, Dublin. The first sisters were brought out by Father Fahy, in February 1856, under the superioress, Mother Mary Evangelist Fitzpatrick. They were first established in Calle Cangallo, till, in 1861, their countrymen built for them the present elegant structure. The community consists of about twenty sisters, of whom one-half are daughters of Irish sheep-farmers here resident. They make the three usual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and a fourth for the service of the poor and sick. Their principal task, however, is the education of seventy boarders, the daughters of Irish estancieros, who pay £30 a year pension; and the gratuitous instruction of 200 poor native children of the neighborhood. They also feed, clothe, and instruct a limited number of orphans. The

boarders are taught English, French, Spanish, music, and needlework: no children are admitted under five, or over fifteen, years of age; they wear a uniform, and are allowed to see their friends on Sundays and holidays, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M. The halls, play ground, &c., are spacious, and the chapel is very neat. The convent covers an area of two acres, or half a cuadra, and the northern wing consists of a hospital for sick and distressed Irish. The sisters also visit the sick of the neighborhood. They receive no subsidy from the State, each of the nuns having her own dowry on entering. The rules of the order were sanctioned by Gregory XVI., in 1841, and the Sisters of Mercy have now numerous establishments in Ireland, United States, and Australia.

The *Recoleta*, dedicated to Our Lady of Pilar, is attached to the city cemetery, about two miles from Plaza Victoria. The church and convent were built by the Franciscans in 1720, at an outlay of £4,000 sterling. There is a tradition that the site had been sold for a suit of clothes. The convent was suppressed in 1822, and in 1858 the building was taken for a Poor Asylum.

There are four Protestant churches; the English, Scotch, American, and German.

The *English Church*, near the corner of Calles Mayo and Cuyo, is a handsome and commodious structure, capable of accommodating about 700 persons. The treaty of 1825 guaranteed Protestants the fullest religious liberty, and the Argentine Government had the generosity to cede this site gratis for an English church, and for the last forty years a chaplain has been attached at the expense of the British Government. Previous to that date (1827) the Protestants assembled for Divine service in a private room, where the Foreign Club now stands. The present chaplain is the Rev. J. Chubb Ford, a graduate of one of the English universities. Divine service is held every Sunday at 11 A.M., and in the evening. Two pews, marked A and B, are set apart for ship captains. The new organ presented by Mr. Lumb is a splendid instrument, and cost £500. Attached to the church are the English parochial schools, attended by about 100 children of both sexes, and under the charge of Professor Ryan.

The *Scotch Church* is in Calle Piedras, near Calle Rivadavia, and of the same simple architecture as usually characterises Presbyterian houses of prayer. It was built in 1838, at a cost of £7,000, and has seats for 300 persons. The first Scotch colony came to Buenos Ayres in 1827 with the Messrs. Robertson, and their countrymen now number over 2,000 in the camp and town. There are two Scotch chapels, at San Vicente and Chascomus, with resident clergymen, and the British Government allows

a subsidy for their maintenance. The first chaplain was the late Rev. W. Brown, D.D., whose successor is Rev. James Smith, deservedly popular among men of all persuasions. Divine service every Sunday at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M.: there is a fine choir. The Scotch school was founded in 1842, and has been successively managed by Mr. Ray, Rev. Dr. Brown, Rev. J. Smith, Mr. Ramsay, and Mr. Augustus Powell: the last-named gentleman has directed it already thirteen years, on the Glasgow normal training system: the average attendance is sixty pupils, and the curriculum includes English, French, Spanish, Latin, &c. The school-room is spacious, and sometimes used for lectures.

The *American*, or Methodist Church, is in Calle Cangallo, opposite the Hotel du Provence; it holds about 300 persons, but the congregation intends providing a better chapel. The actual incumbent is Rev. Mr. Goodfellow, of the American Missionary Society, who has initiated a system of children's lectures on moral training. There is a Sunday school, the children of which have a grand annual fête. Several tracts on religious subjects are distributed by the curate. Divine service on Sundays 11 A.M.; also in the afternoon.

The *German*, or Lutheran Church, is in Calle Esmeralda, between Piedad and Cangallo. It has a pretty Gothic façade and porch, and holds about 300 persons; it was built in 1847 by the German residents, and is almost too small for the present congregation. The chaplain is the Rev. Mr. Gehrke, who has also charge of the schools attached. Divine service at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. on Sundays. The choir is the best in the city. The architect was the late Mr. Taylor.

CEMETERIES.

The *Recoleta Cemetery* is much too small, covering only ten acres; here the inhabitants of the city have been interred for three centuries. Some of the tombs are grand and costly, but the place is so crowded that they appear to no advantage. The place is very much neglected, and the practise of disinterring remains after a certain number of years is a violation of the most hallowed associations. Rich persons by paying fifty years purchase are guaranteed against removal. Poor people can buy graves for five years, at prices varying from \$10 to \$100m^c, according to locality. The mausoleum of Bernardino Rivadavia, the illustrious statesman of 1828, is the finest, and stands in the central avenue. Opposite to it is a monument which will call the special attention of Englishmen, as it marks the resting-place of a valiant countryman, the

famous Admiral Brown. On a flight of marble steps, covering the vault wherein are deposited the remains of the gallant admiral and his wife, rises the base of the structure, the principal portion of which measures 4ft. by 5ft. and the upper $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The main shaft is 12ft. high, with a Corinthian capital bearing a naval trophy of gilt bronze 5ft. high: total height from the ground, 28ft. 6in. Upon the base are well executed «relievos» of the following naval engagements:—11th June, 30th June, Juncal and Emperatriz; also the arms of the Republic, initials of the deceased, and a graceful epitaph bordered with wreaths of shamrocks. A band encircles the column, upon which is the inscription «Guillermo Brown.» Springing from the leaves of the capital is the trident, and surmounting all a trophy of «rostra.» The total cost was \$40,000, about £300, and the site was given by Government. The whole of the work was executed in Buenos Ayres, from designs by P. Beare, C.E.: the castings weighed over five tons and were made in the establishment of F. Carulla. The epitaph, translated from the Spanish, is as follows:—

WILLIAM BROWN,

BORN ON THE 22ND JUNE, 1777, AT FOXFORD, COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND—
OF BRITISH ORIGIN, BUT ARGENTINE BY HIS SERVICES.

*He commanded in chief the first fleet in the War of Independence,
bringing glory and triumph to our flag, A.D. 1814, destroying
the Spanish navies at Martin Garcia and Montevideo.*

Sweeping the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea from 1815 to 1818.

*The ports of Callao and Guayaquil witnessed his prowess under the
Argentine banner, on January 20, and February 1, 1816.*

*The sun that shone on February 9, June 11, and July 29, 1826,
in the waters of La Plata, and on February 9, 1827, in the
River Uruguay, beheld the vessels of the Republic confided to Admiral Brown
crowned with victory in supporting the Independence of the Sister State.*

*He died like a true Christian, on the night of May 3, 1857, surrounded
by his family, overshadowed by his great name, and at the ripe
age of eighty years, having consecrated his life to naval glory.*

*His Widow dedicates this Monument to his memory,
and asks from all brave and grateful men a
Remembrance and a Prayer.*

R. I. P.

The monuments of the Typographic Society and the Spanish Charitable Association are handsome edifices. Not far hence is a stone with the inscription «Señor Alvarez, assassinated by his friends!» Besides the natives there are numerous Irish and French buried in the Recoleta. On the north side, against the convent wall, is a marble slab to the memory of the first Irish priest who came to Buenos Ayres, some forty years ago. Near the entrance-gate are the monuments of Colonel Brandsen, who fell in the battle of Ituzaingo, A.D. 1827, and Captain Meyer, killed in the civil war of 1864. Besides this cemetery another has been recently opened in the south end, near the Convalecencia.

The *English Cemetery*—About the year 1821 the English residents in this city obtained from the Government a general charter in due form for the establishment of a Protestant Cemetery. A short time afterwards a small plot of ground was purchased near the Socorro Church, which for several years was used as their burial-ground; its dimensions were, however, soon found insufficient, and in the year 1832 Mr. John Harratt purchased the present site, and transferred the ownership to the British community of Buenos Ayres. It is situate at the corner of Calles Victoria and Pasco, about a mile and a quarter from Plaza Victoria, covering a «manzana» of 150 yards square, nicely planted and walled in. There is a neat mortuary chapel, in the centre, and the tombs are of varied taste and nationalities, including all classes of Protestants. The Germans have a quarter to themselves, and English, Scotch, and Americans occupy the rest. There are some very sad mementos, such as naval officers accidentally drowned in port, and persons killed in civil commotions. The visitor may pause at the grave of Mr. Priestly who was shot at his own door in a street-riot, or at those of Mr. Mason and General Asboth, late American Ministers for the United States. There is a touching record in a tablet, near the entrance, to the memory of Mr. Taggart, an American resident, who was drowned in rescuing some ladies from drowning in the Lujan river. No coffin is allowed to be laid at less than eight feet from the surface, and the great majority of the coffins are lined with lead. Nevertheless there is an agitation to close up the cemetery and oblige the Protestant residents to take a new site further out of town. A municipal decree has been passed to this effect.

HOSPITALS.

Few cities are better supplied than ours with institutions for the relief of the sick. The Municipality maintains two hospitals, for men and women,

irrespective of creed or nationality. There are also the English, French, Italian and Irish hospitals, and the Sanitary Institute: this last is one of the finest establishments in South America.

The *Men's Hospital* was founded by Don Juan de Garay under the patronage of St. Martin, a block of ground being marked out for the purpose in the distribution of the city. A building was commenced in 1611, and from that time the accounts of the establishment were submitted regularly to the Cabildo, till 1748: in this year the Bethlamite monks took charge of the hospital, and when their order was suppressed the establishment passed into the hands of Government. It was directed by a Philanthropic Society from 1828 to 1833, after which Rosas supported it by a subvention of \$12,000, till the French blockade, when he suppressed it altogether as unnecessary: he, however, allowed it to be re-opened by several charitable persons in 1848, allowing a subvention of \$15,000 per annum, till his fall, in 1852. Since then it has been maintained by the Municipality at a cost of nearly \$2,000,000 per annum. It is situate at the corner of Calles Comercio and Balcarce, and is attended by twenty French Sisters of Charity, who treat the patients with the utmost kindness and care. The physicians are ordered to prescribe wines, delicacies, &c. *ad libitum* for those who require it. Old and infirm people have also an asylum here and are allowed a little pocket-money for tobacco and yerba. The average number of patients is over 4,000 yearly, of which eleven per cent. die. The proportion of nationalities is—Argentines 42, Italians 13, Spaniards 11, French 8, Germans 6, English 2, other nations 18 per cent. The average cost of a patient is \$10 a day. The officials comprise—an administrator, two clerks, a chaplain, six physicians, nine medical students, and three apothecaries. The establishment also comprises a military hospital, and one for sick convicts.

The *Women's Hospital*, under the patronage of St. Michael, was established in 1743, by Padre Juan Alonzo Gonsalez and a Confraternity of Charity, with accommodation for ten patients. In 1784 the house was much enlarged, and again in 1823, when it passed under the charge of the Sociedad de Beneficencia, which association of benevolent ladies still directs its management. The hospital is under the care of fourteen Sisters, called Daughters of Mary, brought from Italy in 1859: the mother house and noviciate is in Montevideo, where these nuns have charge of the Caridad Hospital. The order was first established in Italy in 1829, for caring the sick and teaching children: there are branch houses at Santa Fé, Rosario, and Cordoba. The Women's hospital is at No. 26 Calle Esmeralda, and it has often been proposed to remove it from so central

a locality to the suburbs, but there are no funds to build a new one. The Sisters receive a trifling pension of \$200 a month. There are 200 beds, the average number of patients admitted being 800 per annum, of which 27 per cent. die. The officials include a chaplain, three physicians, one student, an apothecary, and seven nurses. The total annual expenditure is about \$500,000^{m.c.} It is very usual with wealthy citizens or estancieros to leave donations to this and to the Men's Hospital.

The *British Hospital* is a fine, airy, commodious structure, standing at the southern extremity of the city, on a high ground, known as Horn's hill, with a pleasant prospect. It was built in 1859 at a cost of £3,000, the British Government contributing one-half. A bazaar was held at Colon theatre in October 1859, which almost redeemed all the debt, and in 1862 the American Circus of Spalding and Rogers gave a benefit which realized £500: a marble slab has been put up in one of the corridors in gratitude for the same. For the last few years an amateur English Dramatic Club has given annual performances with signal success, at the Victoria theatre, in aid of the hospital. The local subscriptions also amount to about £600 per annum. There are two wards, one for opulent patients at \$50, the other for humbler classes at \$20 per diem. Patients are admitted gratis when certified to be distressed British subjects. The resident surgeon, Robert Reid, Esq., M.D., is a gentleman of acknowledged talent and success, and the returns of patients, operations, &c., are most favorable. In 1867 a shed was erected in front of the hospital, west view, for the reception of fever patients. During the cholera of the following year the institute did good service, no fewer than 72 cases having been admitted, of which more than one-half were discharged cured. The matron, Mrs. Blues, died of the epidemic. The expenses of the hospital are about \$250,000 per annum: the receipts for the years 1865-67 (not including \$97,361 from the Amateur Dramatic benefits) were as follows:—

	1865.		1866.		1867.
Subscriptions,	\$128,871	. . . .	\$92,112	. . . .	\$78,248
Donations,	12,070	. . . .	20,585	. . . .	2,500
Visitors,	2,210	. . . .	1,247	. . . .	1,000
Fees,	97,064	. . . .	91,325	. . . .	150,527
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$240,215		\$205,269		\$232,275
Comparative expenditure in meat, groceries, bread, milk, &c. :—					
	\$133,747	. . . .	\$121,454	. . . .	\$133,340
Number of patients,	459	. . . .	462	. . . .	522
Cost of each,	\$590	. . . .	\$520	. . . .	\$464

A large proportion of the patients is made up of sailors and distressed British subjects, which causes a considerable deficit, that has to be defrayed by local subscription. Before 1859 the British Hospital was situated in very confined premises in Calle Independencia. The committee is composed of H. B. M. Consul, the English and Scotch chaplains, and five subscribers annually elected.

The *French Hospital* is in Calle Libertad, half a cuadra from the plaza of that name. It was established in 1862, and placed in charge of four Sisters of Charity brought out from France for the institution. A bazaar was held at the Club del Plata in 1864, which produced a handsome amount for the hospital. There is a very neat chapel, consecrated in 1863, and a compounding department, besides accommodation for thirty-five sick people. During the cholera these pious daughters of St. Vincent de Paul rendered great assistance to the poor, and the Superioress fell a victim to the epidemic. During the Paraguayan war they have also attended the military hospitals, both in this city and at Corrientes. The French Hospital is supported by subscription.

The *Italian Hospital* was begun by Count Cerutti, Italian Minister, in 1858: owing to lack of subscriptions the works were suspended for a time, but resumed by Count La Ville, Italian Consul, in 1862. The situation is good, being quite close to the British Hospital, at the corner of Calles Bolivar and Caseros. The edifice is large and airy, with a handsome façade: in the hall is a fine statue of Charity, in Carrara marble, and the staircase is the best in the city. The blessing of the chapel took place on the 27th December, 1863, the Bishop officiating, and the sponsors including the Pope's Nuncio, the Italian Minister, the President of the Republic, and the Governor. In 1865 it was converted into a military hospital for wounded Brazilians from the seat-of-war; in 1867 it was used as a cholera hospital for the city, and subsequently there was a project to buy it for the Municipality, and transport the Women's Hospital hither. At present it is closed up, but will, probably, ere long be devoted to its real purpose, the reception of sick Italians. The committee consist of the Italian Consul, the Vice-Consul, and 100 subscribers.

The *Irish Hospital*, in Calle Rio Bamba, was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1862, a wing being built to the convent for the purpose, and the expense defrayed by the Irish sheepfarmers. The wards are spacious and well-ventilated, but generally empty; in fact, the number of sick among the Irish residents bears no proportion whatever to their population. The nuns have a House of Refuge attached, where fifteen orphan girls are brought up at the expense of the convent. During the cholera the hospital

was full, and the Sisters were untiring in their attendance on the sick. One of the Irish priests acts as chaplain both to the convent and the hospital.

The *Sanitary Institute*, on Calle Buen Orden hill, is one of the finest establishments in the country, built with an utter disregard to expense, and supplied with every comfort and luxury in the way of sanitary arrangements. It was opened in June 1868. The grand entrance faces on Calle Buen Orden, and is back from the street about twenty yards; on either side in the garden in front there is a handsome *jet d'eau*; ascending the steps the stranger enters a stately portico, with Corinthian pillars, and, on entering the hall, finds on one side the apothecary's department, and on the other the telegraph office, which connects with the central office at 31 Calle Tacuari. The outward hall or passage, which runs around the building, leads to the various chambers of sickness and convalescence; the space intervening between this hall and the round room in the centre, which is the chapel beneath the dome, is occupied by various saloon dormitories for the patients, each and all opening on the chapel in the centre, the altar of which revolves, so as to be seen by all the patients; and the beautiful stained-glass windows of the various departments open on the chapel in question. Ascending to the second flight we find the rooms, the hall, and the dormitories precisely in the same order as on the first floor, with the exception that the hall opens upon a charming terrace, which commands the finest view in the city. Aloft is the dome, which is an immense iron cistern, containing several hundred pipes of water, pumped up by steam from the premises in the rear; each room is supplied with hot and cold water baths, patent ventilator, gas, and electric bells, with windows looking out on the gardens. The institute receives subscribers on payment of \$30 m^c monthly, or \$300 m^c a year, in advance, by which they are qualified, when sick, to enter and remain until cured; a clean airy apartment, with suitable food, medical adviser, physic, and attendance, are supplied. For the use of sailors the proprietor, M. Lassance, has made the following regulations:—1st. Every vessel, on entering port, can have her crew insured, provided always that she can show a clean bill of health. 2nd. Each member of the crew shall pay \$50 m^c. 3rd. Any individual taken ill eight days after will be admitted. 4th. The \$50 above-mentioned only pays the mariner for three months. 5th. If the vessel brings sick, the doctors attached to the establishment shall classify them into «Positive short cure» and «Doubtful long cure.» The former will only be treated as externs, paying so much a day, the latter will be admitted on chance, that is to say, for the sum of \$500 m^c they are cared and attended until quite

restored. Non-subscribers can be accommodated, whilst ill, with private rooms and all requisites, at from \$50 to \$100 per day. Subscribers desirous of extra privileges can obtain them at half-price. Medical Staff—Dr. Luis Drago, President of the Board of Health, one apothecary, and two assistants. Consulting Physicians—Drs. William Rawson, Ventura Bosch, Nicanor Albarellos, Teodoro Alvarez, Toribio Ayerza. Free visits for the poor on Mondays and Fridays. Hours—From 8 to 9 A.M., and from 4.30 to 5.30 P.M. The drugs for the poor, ordered by the physicians of the establishment on the above days, will be compounded in the dispensary for half the regular prices. Patients are at perfect liberty to bring in any member of the faculty they choose for their own account, and the resident physicians will always assist without fees at a consultation called by the patient's particular doctor. The town office is at 31 Calle Tacuari. The site of the hospital was formerly included in Balcarce's quinta. The edifice was begun in 1866: it has the appearance of a rotunda, and can be seen from the city. There is a fine kitchen garden attached, to raise vegetables for the house. Subscribers or patients are admitted without any distinction.

CONVALECENCIA, POOR AND FOUNDLING ASYLUMS.

The *Convalecencia*, or Lunatic Asylum, is about half a mile from the Plaza Constitucion, on a hill overlooking Barracas. It takes its name from a hospital founded by the Bethlehemite monks. The present new building was erected in 1859, at a cost of \$2,000,000, the Legislature providing one-half: the architects were Messrs. Hunt and Schroeder. The edifice is spacious, being the only asylum for male and female patients in the country: they were formerly confined in narrow and unwholesome quarters at the Residencia. It is related by Pillado that in 1785 there were but seven lunatics in Buenos Ayres. The average number of patients is about 400, of whom 28 per cent. are cured. The Men's quarter is under the charge of a manager, a physician, and fourteen keepers: that of the Women is managed by nine Italian «religieuses» called «Daughters of Mary.» who receive a pension of \$200 a month, having been brought out expressly at the request of the Municipality; there are also a chaplain, a doctor, and seven servants. The expenses of the Women's asylum are paid out of the Provincial revenues of Buenos Ayres, and administered by the ladies of the Sociedad de Beneficencia, amounting to \$320,000 per annum. The Men's asylum is supported by the Municipality, at a cost of \$370,000 per annum.

The *Cuna*, or Foundling Asylum, is situate at the back of San Francisco, facing the Debtors' prison, with the touching inscription «My father and mother have cast me out, God's pity has sheltered me here.» The innocent victims of shame or distress are kindly brought up, and not unfrequently attain a good position in society. Infanticide is unknown, thanks to this institution. There is a staff of seventeen nurses, under the direction of six Italian nuns; also a physician and a chaplain. A new asylum has been erected near the Convalecencia, where forty weaned children are cared for. The parents may claim a child up to two years, but after this term it becomes the property of the institute: at a certain age the children are given out, with consent of the Juez de Menores, to respectable families who engage to rear and educate them, making them also useful in domestic service, giving account of them when required by the Sociedad de Beneficencia, and not taking them out of the country without a special permission. Notwithstanding every care given to the poor foundlings from the first moment, about one-third of them die, and 4 per cent. are claimed by their parents, who in this case have to pay a small retribution to the institute. The *Cuna* was established by Don José Riglos and the Vice-roy Vertis, in 1779, from which time it remained under charge of the civil authorities till 1823, when the Sociedad de Beneficencia was formed. It was suppressed by Rosas in 1838, and re-established in 1852, since which latter date over 300 children have been received. The annual expenditure is \$600,000.

Female Orphan School.—This institute was begun at San Miguel church, in 1755, by the Confraternity of Charity, which being suppressed in 1822, the asylum then passed into the hands of Government. Rosas did not suppress the institute, but merely obliged the orphans to dress in red, the color of his party. The orphanage now exists in the suppressed convent attached to the Merced church, under the direction of the Sociedad de Beneficencia. Previous to the cholera of 1867 the number of orphans was limited to thirty-two, but the sad effects of the epidemic caused Governor Alsina to increase the number permanently to seventy-five. There are also 100 externs educated in the school. There are two mistresses, seven assistants, a chaplain, three visiting masters, and a staff of servants. The annual expenditure is \$400,000.

The *Asilo de Mendigos*, or Poor Asylum, is situate in the extinct convent of the Recoleta, adjoining the cemetery. Buenos Ayres has always been almost free from mendicity, although Parish represents a few beggars in his time who used to go about on horseback. A few lame or blind men still make their rounds on Saturdays, afoot. The asylum was established

by the Municipality in 1858, and inaugurated by Governor Valentin Alsina : at the end of that year it contained seventy-nine mendicants. The first committee of direction was composed of Canon Fuentes, Dr. Pinedo, and Messrs. Martinez, Varela, Pintos, Fernandez, Billinghamurst, Cabrera, Zinny, and Señorans. The average number in the asylum is about 200, of whom three-fourths are whites, including some foreigners and old soldiers. The treatment they receive is very good. The Municipality contributes \$60,000 a year, and the rest is made up by voluntary subscription. Previous to 1858 the convent was used as a barrack: the situation is very fine, commanding an extensive view over the River Plate.

Los Ejercicios is a kind of female penitentiary at the corner of Calles Salta and Independencia. The institute was founded in 1794, by a nun named Maria Antonia Paz, from Santiago del Estero, in a house in Calle Piedras now occupied by Señor Terrero: it was transferred to its present site before the death of the founder, and has since been ruled by five superioresses. In 1859 the Bishop reformed the rules. There are usually 100 persons in the house, between nuns and penitents, the latter being sent hither by the Tribunals. The establishment receives a pension from Government and various public donations.

Sociedad de Beneficencia.—This society of charitable ladies was founded in 1823, to take charge of the Women's Hospital, Foundling Asylum, Orphan School, and the State schools for girls. It was installed by Rivadavia, the founders being Mesdames Cabrera, Mandeville, Aguirre, Sanches, Ramos, Boneo, Agüero, Azcuenaga, Viamont, Luca, Izquierdo, Lasala, and Gutierrez. It was partly suppressed by Rosas in 1838, and revived under Mme. Garrigos in 1852. Since then it has rendered invaluable service, remodelling the above-mentioned institutions and establishing seventy female free schools in town and country, which are attended by 5,000 children.

Deaf and Dumb Institute, 481 Calle Cangallo: it was founded in 1857 by a philanthropic society called La Regeneracion, and placed under the direction of Mr. Charles Keil. The Provincial Government pays a subvention of \$12,000 a year, and the rest is borne by the society. The children are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, drawing, Christian doctrine, &c., but their number rarely exceeds half-a-dozen. They afterwards earn a living as cigar-makers, boot-makers, &c.

CHAP. V.

STREETS AND SHOPS.

THE *Calle Rivadavia* bisects the city, running due west from the Plaza Victoria to the Plaza Once de Setiembre, a distance of two miles: it is crossed at intervals of 150 yards by twenty-three streets, which take different names as they run north or south. At the corner of Plaza Victoria and Calle San Martin Mr. Olivera, a cigar seller, has built a fine three-story house with a good view of the Plaza. In the first block we find the Café del Plata and many dry goods stores, besides Phillips' mineral water establishment, Cranwell's drug store, and the office of Best Brothers. The second block contains a large building belonging to Señor Anchorena, in which are some foreign merchants' offices, viz.: Messrs. Lohman & Co., Paul Pott & Co., Clark & Malm, and the hat shop of Mr. Christian Sommer. Passing these we meet, at the corner of Chacabuco, the Club del Plata, after which come the offices of Fels, Seyffert, & Co., Malmann & Co., Luders & Co., the Gas Co., Parody's clothing store, and Roldan & Amaral's agricultural implement store; pursuing our course we come to the grand coach depot of Señor Cabral. Next is the school of the French nuns; and at the corner of Calle Libertad is the splendid house of Messrs. Unzue. Three blocks further are the Plaza and market of Lorea, near which is an old wind-mill. The street widens before it reaches the Once de Setiembre, but is irregularly built. It was originally called Calle Las

Torres, because the towers of the old cathedral were visible to wayfarers coming in from the direction of Flores: it was next called Calle Federacion, but obtained its present name on the occasion of the funeral of Rivadavia. We shall now take the streets at right angles in their order, beginning with the North end.

STREETS RUNNING NORTH.

Paseo de Julio runs along the beach, from the Custom-house northward, and has a number of ship-chandleries and whaleboat offices, viz., those of Allinson, Mahon, McLean, Herring, Eckell, Lowry, and Le Couter, besides many coffee-houses and outfitters' shops. There are back-entrances to the Commercial Rooms and Capitania del Puerto. Señor Llavallol has a fine house at the corner of Calle Cuyo, Señor Gomez at the corner of Calle Corrientes, and the Hotel du Nord is well suited for ship-captains, having a fine view of the port. There is a first-class foundry belonging to an old Spaniard named Carulla, whose son was educated at Manchester, and who purposes establishing the first cloth factory in the River Plate. Next follows the foundry of Stevens & Co. The Paseo Julio was formerly a promenade, which Rosas intended prolonging out to Palermo; part of the balustrade was knocked down by the Santa Rosa gale, August 1860. At the foot of Calle Cordoba it is proposed to build wharves and bonded stores: this point is known as Bajo de las Catalinas, from the adjacent convent. A little further we meet the ice-house, and the beach is now lined with willow-plantations among which the black washerwomen appear in great numbers. The Gas-house forms the extreme north point of the city: it is defended by a strong sea-wall and has all the necessary workshops, retorts, &c. for its present supply of 40,000 lights in the city.

Calle 25 de Mayo runs parallel with the Paseo de Julio. Messrs. Elortondo and Bosch have two lofty edifices at the corner of the Plaza Mayo. This street contains three hotels, the Globo, Paris, and Europa, besides many houses where furnished lodgings may be obtained. The Commercial Rooms and Capitania are nearly opposite the English church. The British Consulate is at the corner of Corrientes. In this street are the offices of Deetjen & Co., Moller & Co., and the American house of H. J. Ropes & Co.; also Dowsé's steamboat agency, C. W. Benn & Co. shipbrokers, and Mulyany's coffee-house. The Southern Railway directors have their office at the British Consulate.

Calle Reconquista begins at Colon theatre : it was formerly called Defensa. but in 1809 received its present name to commemorate the recovery of the city from General Beresford. The old house, formerly occupied by J. C. Thompson & Co., was the residence of some of the vice-roys, and is of remarkable construction. In this same block we find the offices of Samuel B. Hale, Latham & Co., Mr. Dowdall, broker, Gowland & Co., and the hardware store of Mr. Dakin; on the opposite side the Portuguese Consulate, the offices of Rossi & Co., Tay and Upton, American shipbrokers, and the grocer's shop of T. Moore, who does a large business with Irish sheepfarmers. The new London and River Plate Bank is a fine structure, at the corner of Calle Piedad. In the same block we find the residence of Canon Fahey, the patriarch of Irish residents; the apothecary's shop of Cranwell and Murray, the offices of Moore Punch and Tudor; H. A. Green & Co., shipbrokers and agents for the Liverpool steamers; Hughes & Peters, produce-brokers; J. C. Thompson & Co.; Bemberg & Co.; and Rick & Co. Opposite to Cranwell and Murray's is the fine mansion of the late Señor Ocha, an old Spanish merchant; and next door is a stately pile erected by Dr. Costa, late Minister of Instruction, who has now let it out in offices; those of the Central Argentine Railway and Mr. Coghlan, C.E., are in the upper story. At the corner of Calle Cangallo is the Hotel de la Paix. Next comes the Merced church, with orphan asylum attached. The architect was a Jesuit priest named Andrea Blanqui, who built several churches in this city. In the chancel is still seen a portrait of the chief benefactor and his wife, with the date 1769. Opposite is the luxurious residence of Señor Anchorena. Mr. Kelly, the apothecary, has a shop at the next corner, opposite Risso's steamboat agency. The Italian Bank was in the fourth block, but after a brief existence of two years it was closed up and the furniture sold by auction. In this block are the offices of Folmar & Co., American merchants; Dr. Nelson, a resident physician of long standing; Sassenberg & Co.; Bunge & Co.; and Warnholtz & Co; this last firm has taken much interest in the importation of Angora goats from the Cape of Good Hope. In the fifth block is the Model School, founded in 1859.

Calle San Martin begins at Plaza Victoria: in the first block are the Foreign Club and Mackern's book-store, where strangers may find it convenient to ask information; also the offices of Russell and Anderson, produce brokers; Aguirre & Murga, the great landed proprietors of Bahía Blanca; Woodgate Brothers, ship-brokers and agents for Tait's line of steamers; and the haberdashery of Mr. Flower. The next block contains the Provincial and Argentine Banks, the handsome residences of the Pacheco

and Tejedor families, and the offices of J. P. Boyd & Co., ship-brokers and agents for the Liverpool steamers; the grocers shop of Feely & Wilson, Grieben's casino, the American store of Bate & Livingstone, Clausen's cigar shop, and several offices of money-brokers, including that of Mr. Henry Hart. Further on we come to the Bolsa, the Universelle lodging house, public baths, Loedel's English book-store, the German photographic studio, the printing offices of the German paper, of Señor Estrada, and of the *Nacion Argentina*: in this block there are two Casinos or lunch saloons. The fourth block contains the Louvre Hotel, the house of General Mitre, the office of Haycroft & Co., and the residence of General Paz's family. The fifth has a beautiful mansion belonging to Señor Anchorena, No. 137, and opposite is the two-story terrace of Señor Miró, which is rented out in very neat and commodious English lodgings. Crossing Calle Parque we find another princely house of the Anchorena family: at the corner of Tucuman is a range of houses belonging to Mr. Armstrong; and the next block shews us the convent of Catalinas, with church attached. The founder was Dr. Dionisio Briseño, and the architect Juan Narbana, from plans by Padre Blanqui. At the end of the street is the quinta Laprida, now Dr. White's school.

Calle Florida is perhaps the best street in the city. The residence of Mr. Lumb, an old English resident, that of the Dorrego family, and many fashionable shops, along with the offices of Russell Shaw, Mitchell & Co., and E. Glover make up the first block: the second has also numerous jewellers' shops and bazaars: the third has Alzaga's fine house, after which comes that of Mr. Plowes, and then the office of Darbyshire, Krabbé, & Co.: the fourth contains some lodging-houses and a German Club, after which comes the Spanish Consulate: the fifth comprises some of the most elegantly finished houses in town. The rest of the street as far as the Retiro comprises the most fashionable quarter: here we meet the houses of Ocampo, Jackson, Blaye, Mackinlay, Riestra, &c. At the corner of Calle Tucuman is the apothecary shop of Espinosa & Kyle. In the ninth block Señor Madero built a market in 1865, but it has been closed: opposite is a very pretty nursery. At the corner of Calle Paraguay is a block of houses belonging to Mr. Armstrong. There is a wooden draw-bridge across Calle Paraguay, for foot-passengers in time of rain: there being no street-drainage the stream that comes rushing down here after heavy rains is so great that a man was drowned here in October 1868. One block now takes us to the handsome promenade of the Retiro.

Calle Maypu is called after the victory over the Spaniards in 1818. The blocks near the centre have some English offices, viz., Kohlstedt & Co.,

Isaac & Co., Ferber, Huhn, & Co., Clarke & Co., and Bates, Stokes, & Co.; this last is one of the oldest and most influential houses in the River Plate, being also agents for the Liverpool and Pacific Company's steamers; there is nothing else of interest till you reach General San Martin's statue in the Plaza Retiro.

Calle Esmeralda derives its name from a naval feat of Lord Cochrane's in the port of Callao, 1820. The Women's hospital, in the first block, accommodates 200 patients. In the next is the German Lutheran church. A little further is Mr. Coffin's depot of American machinery and farming implements. At the corner of Calle Cordoba is a handsome mansion and garden, the residence of a Spaniard named Giraldez. Near the Retiro is the residence of the Chilean Consul: this spacious house was built by a wealthy estanciero for his wife, who died immediately after, and on this account he kept it closed up for many years. A new block of houses in English style has been built at the corner of Plaza Retiro.

Calle Suipacha, called after another victory over the Spaniards, has many handsome residences in the first four or five blocks, that of Señor Atucha being the finest. Beside San Miguel church is an old established English seminary, next door to Mr. Lenz, jeweller. At the seventh block we come to a little square called Plaza del Temple, now shabby and old-fashioned, but it is supposed there was a sword-factory here long ago, to give rise to the name, since «temple» signifies «the temper of a blade.» The rest of this street is ugly till we approach the Socorro: a chapel was first built at the Socorro by Don Alejandro del Valle, the rebuilding of which in recent times gave rise to a great lawsuit, and here a tasteful row of English houses has been built by Mr. Drabble. Passing the splendid residence of this gentleman, who owns the entire block, we reach the quinta of Mr. Santamaria, and then the princely residence of the Estrada family; from this point is obtained a charming view of the river.

Calle Artes has little of note except the market and water-works: the former was partially burned in 1862, but was rebuilt; this is one of the highest spots in the city, and therefore chosen for the tank of the water-works. The church of San Nicolas is at the corner of Corrientes: it was built by Don Francisco Araujo, and the capuchin nuns were first stationed here. The church has been recently decorated anew by the «cura,» Canon Edward O'Gorman. The Brazilian Legation is at No. 166, and a little further is the Club del Parque. At the end of the street, overlooking the river, is the quinta of Don Lorenzo Torres.

Calle Cerrito and *Calle Libertad* are comparatively new streets: the latter runs through the Plazas Parque and Libertad, out to the Cinco Esquinas.

In this locality are several pretty quintas originally built by Messrs. Whitfield and Klappenbach, and now occupied by English families. The Chevalier Noel keeps the French Legation in the house previously occupied by H.B.M. Minister, Mr. Buckley Mathew. The families of Coghlan, Cardenas, Glover, Harrison, and Kinch have the neighbouring quintas.

The other streets running north from Calle Rivadavia are only partly built on. At the corner of Callao and Parque is a large Jesuit college, just finished, and in Calle Rio Bamba, near the corner of Tucuman, is the Irish convent of Mercy.

STREETS RUNNING SOUTH.

Calle Balcarce runs south from Plaza Mayo, by the back of San Francisco and Santo Domingo convents, passing the old Custom-house, the mill of the Andes, and a number of old houses which bear the impress of the early Spaniards.

Calle Defensa is quite an English street, running from the Recoba Vieja to the British Hospital. For several blocks we meet English grocery stores, boot shops, draperies, &c. In the first block are—the British Library; the offices of Wells and Gatliff, brokers; Eastman's drug store; Lindenau's hat shop; James Hill, custom-house broker; C. T. Getting & Co., import and export merchants; Claypole's newspaper agency; Fleming's boot shop; G. Ellis, clothier; Galbraith & Hunter, and A. Fulton & Co., drapers; Keyser's bar room; Davenport & Co. The Irish church of San Roque is at the corner of Potosi, next to that of San Francisco, and lower down is Santo Domingo. At No. 91 in this street Rosas was born; the house belonged to the Ezcurra family. In this same block we find Torres & Barton's drug store, Mr. James White's house, Barry & Walker's grocery, hardware, and drapery stores, and the Porvenir printing-office. In the next cuadra are—Gowland's auction mart, Southron's saddlery, Roncoroni's color and paint shop. Opposite Santo Domingo is the drug store of Signor Demarchi, who is Swiss Consul, and a little lower down are Bell's timber yard and the grocery of Robert Muir & Co. The Black barrack, at the corner of Calle Mejico, is now a Customs deposit, in front of which are Gregory's livery stables. The wooden bridge is an abominable locality: here a torrent runs down in wet weather; in fact, it is an open sewer. San Telmo is on high ground, a little above the Comercio Market; it was built by Padre Blanqui, and in 1815 was made a parish church. Further on is Fair's quinta, so long the residence of the British

Legation, now belonging to Mr. Lowry of Montevideo, and tenanted by Mr. Perry. The ornamental grounds and residence of Don Gregorio Lezama, at the furthest south end, command a fine prospect of the city and roadstead: they are said to have cost £50,000 sterling. A terrace of English houses hard by belongs to Mr. Ludlam. The British Hospital crowns the barranca overlooking Barracas and the south.

Calle Bolivar, formerly Santa Rosa, has yet many traces of antiquity. At No. 12 is the residence of General Gelly Obes, formerly a convent; the bones of some of the nuns were found here. In front is a very antique three-story house, and further on is the *Nacional* office, close to Señor Lezica's handsome residence. In the second block is the College church, formerly belonging to the Jesuits, who were said to have an underground passage from here to the old fort. The architect of the church was Padre Blanqui, and the chief benefactor Don Juan Antonio Costa, date 1722. In November, 1868, the workmen laying down the water pipes found an old well in the middle of the street, opposite Mr. Morta's book-store. In this block are—M. Bonnemason's office, agent for the Marseilles line of steamers, and the millinery shop of Mrs. M'Dougall. At the corner of Calle Moreno is a large building, newly erected, the property of the Anchorena family, and in front is the Patente Office. Lower down is the Supreme Federal Court; then the new house of Dr. Quintana, the Post-office, the Brazilian Consulate, the Lottery Office, and the house of Señor Aldecoa. At the corner of Calle Europa is the brewery of M. Buhler. The street terminates with the Italian Hospital, corner of Caseros, and on the barranca is the quinta of Señor Gonzalez Moreno.

Calle Peru.—The first block has the splendid mansions of Molina, Armstrong, Elizalde, Elortondo, and some fine shops. No. 3 is the shop of Mr. Jaeggli, agent for Roskell & Co., watchmakers. At the corner of Victoria is the Club Progreso, a princely edifice built by Señor Munoa, who, like so many others, landed in the country without a shilling. A little further is the office of the Sociedad Rural, or Farmers' Club. At the next corner we come to the Museum and Old Market; there is a kiosk in front of the market, where hack-coaches may be hired cheap. Opposite to the University and Chambers of Legislature is a row of houses belonging to Mr. Armstrong. At the next corner is a steam confectionary. Another block brings us to Don Ricardo O'Shee's office, formerly the residence of the Bishop, and vulgarly called Casa de la Vireyna. Lower down are—the office of Peyredieu & Bradley, brokers, and Mr. James Carmen's barraca.

Calle Chacabuco begins at the Club del Plata; it has several commercial offices, viz.: Barbour, Barclay, & Co., Mr. Loog, jeweller, Cohen & Joseph, Stock & Co., Mantels & Pfeiffer, Semple & Co., Dillemann, Landweh, & Desarnaud, and runs by the Old Market, terminating at Mr. Zimmermann's quinta, where the Municipality made several attempts to cut a road down the barranca, but was prevented by the Law Courts.

Calle las Piedras passes by the Scotch Church and the convent of San Juan. In this street reside Rev. J. Smith, Mr. Parravicini, Austrian Consul; Dr. Terrero, lawyer; Dr. Varela, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Santillan & Co., brokers.

Calle Tacuari has some fine buildings: in the first block is a French school; in the second are the Colegio Griego and Madame Farnesi's seminary, both for young ladies; in the third is Mr. Nicholson's school. At the corner of Independencia is the Concepcion Church. A little chapel was first built here by Don Matias Flores, who subsequently in conjunction with Don Geronimo Pizarro, undertook to erect a parish church on the spot; and eight blocks further we reach the chapel and schools of Santa Catalina, which were founded by bequest of a wealthy citizen, in 1860, and since then the adjoining property has become very valuable. Bardewick's and Prange's barracas are in this neighborhood.

Calle Buen Orden has always been the great highway to the south: it runs through the Plazas of Monserrat and Independencia, terminating at the grand Sanitary Institute on the «barranca» overlooking the Calle Larga.

Calle Lima is the route taken by the tramway from the Southern Railway terminus into town, passing through the Plaza Constitucion. In this street are the Ejercicios and the Independencia market; also, the office of Corrales & Wehmann, brokers.

The other streets running south from Rivadavia are hardly worth notice. At the corner of San José and Cochabamba is the new convent school of the French nuns, with a neat chapel. The S.W. suburbs comprise many fine quintas, belonging to the families of Casares, Bunge, Gowland, Crespo, Martinez de Hoz, Aldao, Downes, Diehl, Frias, and Navarro Viola: near the last-named are the Southern Cemetery and the new «mataderos.»

STREETS RUNNING WEST—NORTH END.

There are thirty-one streets running west from the river side, and we shall begin with those in the north end.

Calle Piedad is the first street parallel with Rivadavia, and one of the great business thoroughfares. In the second block are the offices of

Messrs. Duguid & Co. and Arning, Hutz, & Co. At the corner of Calle Reconquista is the new English Bank. In the third block we find Mr. Fallon's general wholesale and retail store, called the Hibernian House, also the offices of T. Nuttal, of Tomkinson & Co., and Turmeau's grocery. In the fourth block are the famous Swiss Confiteria, Ashworth & Co., Gilmour & Co., Barker, bill broker, Carlyle, Smith, & Co., Gifford Brothers, Drabble Brothers & Co., the Estrella, Bienhechora, and Argentine insurance companies, and Twyford's grocery. Crossing Calle Florida we come to the residence of ex-Governor Saavedra, the public baths, Parlane, Graham, & Co., Khaynach & Co., Kerr & Grierson, J. Brown & Co., Milligan & Williamson. At the corner of Suipacha is San Miguel church. The present church was commenced on St. Michael's day, 1782, and completed six years later: it was not consecrated till 21st November, 1784, the curate being Don José Gonzalez Islas, a native of Santiago del Estero: six cuadras further is the Piedad church. It was founded by a Portuguese, named Manuel Gomez. Before reaching the Plaza Once de Setiembre we reach the Balvanera, a new and imposing church, attached to which is the college of the Padres Bayoneses; the church was begun by a Franciscan mendicant friar named Juan Rodriguez, with the intent of establishing a house for missionaries on the Chilian and Peruvian missions; near this is Livingstone's barraca.

Calle Cangallo, formerly called La Merced. In the second block are the Provence Hotel, the American Methodist Church, and Sciurrano's steamboat agency. The Hotel de la Paix is in front of the French theatre, and then come the Ancla Dorada and the excellent coffee-houses called Café de Paris and Café de Catalanes, which are crowded every evening: the best dinners in town may be obtained here. In this block are the offices of Peltzer & Co., Lennuyeux, ship broker, and the clothing stores of Temperley and Parody. At the next corner is the Hotel San Martin, passing which is the Electric Telegraph office, and then the Maua Bank: on the other side you see the splendid house and ware-rooms of Fusoni & Maveroff. The picture gallery of Corti & Francischelli is at the corner of Florida. In the next block is the fine new building called Carabassa's Bank. Four cuadras further is the New Market, and crossing Calle Talcahuano we remark a building with Grecian front, the club house of the Italian Benevolent Society.

Calle Cuyo begins at Llavallol's mansion, which is the Roman Consulate, and in the next block are two fashionable houses, the first the residence of Mr. Charles Saguier, the second contains the steamboat agencies of Matti & Piera and the Corrientes Company. At the corner of Esmeralda is a

tasteful row of houses, in one of which the defunct Literary Club used to meet.

Calle Corrientes—In the first block is the Asylum for Emigrants, after which is the Victoria Hotel. Next come Miss Roche's millinery shop, Mr. Holm's fashionable warehouse, and Shaw's upholstery. At the corner of Esmeralda is Black's timber yard. At the corner of Artes is the church of San Nicolas, and on crossing Calle Libertad we find another of the wooden bridges so necessary for foot-passengers when rains flood the streets.

Calle Parque has long been a fashionable street. Anchorena's and Miró's houses are very fine: the latter, at the corner of San Martin, being let out in first-class English lodgings: in this street are the French and Swedish Consulates, Dr. Ayer, Dr. Alston, Messrs. Allen Bailey & Co. Passing Calle Esmeralda we reach the Coliseum, and in the next block is the British Legation. Two blocks further is the Plaza Parque.

Calles Tucuman and Temple come next. The first may be said to terminate at the Parque railway terminus, the second runs from the Monjas convent, passing through the Plazas Temple and Parque.

Calles Cordoba and Paraguay.—In the first there is nothing remarkable till we reach the outskirts. In the fourteenth block is the chapel of El Carmen, founded in the beginning of this century by a wealthy native. Six squares further is a quinta tastefully laid out belonging to the late Dr. Leslie. Not far from this is another very handsome, belonging to Dr. Velez Sarsfield.

Calles Charcas, Santa Fé, and Arenales run from the Plaza Retiro westward. The last named terminates in the Hueco de Cabezitas, an open space of some ten acres.

Calle Juncal is the extreme north line of the city, and here are situate many pretty residences overlooking the river. In this street is the American legation, passing which we come to the Cinco Esquinas, an old fashioned locality, deriving its name from the «five corners» here formed by the crossing of the streets. From this point there is a well paved street to the Recoleta.

STREETS RUNNING WEST—SOUTH END.

Calle Victoria is the first street parallel with Rivadavia, in the south section. In the first block are Messrs. Gibson and Murray, tailors; Dickleman & Co., and the *Tribuna* office: crossing Calle Peru we have on one side a French bazaar, and on the other the Progreso Club, after which come the German Club, Esbens & Co., Jourde & Co., Ebbecke, Wedekind

Fehr & Co., Schultz & Co. Passing Calle Esmeralda is the Alcazar, and then comes the Victoria theatre. Five squares further we pass the Plaza Lorea, and at the sixteenth block from the Plaza Victoria is the Bishop's chapel of Salinas, attached to which is the diocesan seminary for ecclesiastics. Two squares further is the British cemetery.

Calle Potosi runs from the chapel of San Roque, past the College church, Old Market, and the convent of San Juan: near this are the mansions of Cibils and Terrero. In this street are, Mr. Billingham's auction-rooms, Mr. Binden, broker; Underwood's upholstery, Iturraspe & Co. In the fourteenth block is a handsome quinta once belonging to the late General Guido, and here the Italians are building a chapel of ease.

Calle Moreno, formerly San Francisco, begins at the Cuna and Debtors' prison. In the second block is Mr. Drysdale's fine new house, and at the next corner a massive building belonging to the Anchorenas. The next block is occupied by the Provincial Government-house, State Library, and Model School. We next pass Kitchen's plumber's shop, and Mr. Bernheim's printing-house and type foundry: here the «Republica» and French paper are published. In the fifth block are the residences of the Stegman family, and Minister Ayellaneda. Two blocks further we reach the Plaza Monserrat.

Calle Belgrano begins with the church and convent of Santo Domingo, in the second block is the *Standard* office, next to which is the National Statistic Department. In the next block is the residence of the President of the Republic, and passing the Plaza Monserrat we reach the church of that name. The origin of Monserrat was a small chapel built here by Don Pedro Sierra, which was made a parish church in 1769. At the foot of Calle Belgrano a whale was washed ashore in 1866.

Calle Venezuela.—At the foot of this street is the temporary terminus of the Boca Railway. There are some fine houses in this street, especially that of Señor Alzaga, and finished in modern style with rich marble ornaments. In this street are Paats & Co., Murdock & Henderson, beer importers; Burmeister, wool-broker; and Mr. Shaw's great furniture mart.

Calle Mexico begins at the Plaza Andes. At the corner of Chacabuco is Cabral's factory. The Anglo-German hotel is in the second block.

Calle Chile has nothing worthy of note.

Calle Independencia.—In the third block is Mrs. Powell's boarding and day school, and in the seventh is the Concepcion church, after which come the Plaza Independencia and the Ejercicios.

Calles Estados Unidos and *Europa* follow next. Nothing remarkable. Torres and Schickedantz, brokers, have an office at 211 Estados Unidos.

Calles Comercio, San Juan, and Cochabamba.—In the first we find the Men's Hospital, San Telmo church, and the Comercio market. In Calle Cochabamba, thirteenth block, is the new French convent.

Calles Garay and Brazil run from Fair's quinta to the Plaza Constitucion. In the second we pass the chapel and schools of Santa Catalina.

Calle Caseros is the extreme southern limit of the city, starting from Lezama's quinta, passing that of Gonzales Moreno, crossing the Southern railway near the Convalecencia, and terminating at the new Southern cemetery.

The city of Buenos Ayres can hardly boast much of manufactures, but there are some important industries. The breweries of Mr. Bieckherth in Calle Salta, of Mr. Bühler Calle Bolivar, and several others do a large business. The coach factory of Señor Cabral, the principal one in the country, turns out vehicles equal to any made in Europe. There are several first-class iron foundries, including those of Señor Carulla, Stevens & Kay, John Marshall, &c. Previous to the year 1865 we procured ice from the United States, but Mr. Demarchi's factory now supplies this article in abundance. There are also one or two factories for making wax matches, and several for the fabrication of macaroni, mineral waters, &c. In the outskirts are numerous steam washing establishments for wool and sheepskins. A steam laundry has been recently put up, on the Palermo road.

CHAP. VI.

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

THE Custom-house, as we have said, is built on the site of the fort erected by the first settlers, and has a light, visible about fifteen miles. The Custom-house is divided into five departments, viz.: Administracion, Contaduria, Alcaidia, Tesoreria, and Resguardo. The first comprises the Administrator of Customs, his secretary, the arrival and sailing office, the vistas, statistics, and archives. The second has an Accountant-General and offices for despatch of goods, either direct or in deposit, for entrances and clearances of coasting craft, and for copying and numbering documents. The third is in charge of an Alcaide, who has to look after the various bonded stores and their contents. The fourth comprises the Treasurer and his office, for all monetary matters. The fifth has three inspectors, one at the Custom-house, another at the Boca, and a third at the passengers wharf, who act as coast guards.

IMPORT TRAFFIC.

Every vessel cleared from foreign ports for Buenos Ayres must have her papers signed by the Argentine Consul of the port of her departure, and of whatever ports she may touch at on the voyage: the Consular fee is \$4, or 16s., per 100 tons register. When the vessel arrives in port she is boarded

by the health officer and an official from the pontoon Castelli; the latter asks the captain what port he comes from, where he got his cargo, and who is his consignee; he then gives him a printed copy of the port regulations, asks for the general manifest of cargo, and for a list (in any language) of ship's stores and supplies. The captain signs a declaration of same, and the papers are taken ashore to the wharf inspector, who transmits them to the *Escribania Marítima*. The consignee then presents to the Mesa a duplicate certificate from his Consul, whereupon the Mesa calculates the port charges accruing, and these have to be paid into the Treasury: the Mesa gives a certificate of such payment to the consignee, who then enters the vessel in the office of maritime arrivals and sailings, depositing the ship's papers. Then the consignees or brokers accompany the captain to enter the ship in form, and the captain identifies the ship's papers. A document is next drawn up ratifying the manifest, and signed by the captain, the consignee or broker, and the Customs clerk. The consignee then makes three copies (in Spanish) of the manifest of cargo and ship's stores, the first copy on stamp according to the tonnage, the second on a 25 cent. stamp, and the third on common paper. The vessel is next entered, with her registry, number, class, nationality, name, port, consignee, and date, which are noted on the three manifests. The first manifest, with the ship's papers, is sent to the *Contaduría*, the second to the *Resguardo*, and the third to the *Alcaidia*. The vessel may then begin to unload, and the consignees to look after their goods.

UNLOADING.

The mate gives to the master of each lighter a document (in any language) specifying the goods delivered, their mark, number, &c., and getting a receipt for same: the lighterman presents the «papeleta» at the wharf «resguardo», where it is compared with the manifest, after which he makes out «papeletas» for the various deposits to which the goods are to be forwarded. The *Resguardo* numbers and signs these papeletas, which are then transmitted to the *Alcaide*, to receive such goods. The *Alcaide* marks on the «papeletas» the name of the employee who has to receive the goods, and the deposit where they are to be stored. The employee in question, on receiving the goods, gives a receipt for same, and the «papeletas» are then returned to the *Alcaidia*, and archived. After the vessel has discharged all her cargo, the *Resguardo* sends an officer to compare the list of ship's stores as returned.

GOODS IN TRANSIT.

If after eight days from arrival a vessel has not broken bulk the consignee may request her clearance for another port: this shall be on a 25 cent. stamp, and on payment of port dues the Administrator, after the visit by the Resguardo, shall return her papers and clear her. The transit of goods not discharged may be effected either by «retorno» in the same vessel or by «transbordo» to another. Duplicate petitions on 25 cent. stamps must be made, setting forth the name of the importing vessel and that of transshipment, the destination of the latter, the marks, contents, and qualities of the goods; and these must be presented to the Direct Despatch office of the Contaduria within twelve days after the ship's arrival. A term of forty days is allowed when the manifest expresses that the goods are for transshipment to a certain destination: the same term is allowed for lumber, salt, and coal. In like manner goods solicited for direct despatch within eight days from the ship's arrival may be transhipped within forty days in the manner already stated.

DIRECT DESPATCH.

The consignee has to draw up four documents: a manifest on 25 cent. stamp, a copy of bill of lading on 25 cent. stamp, and copies of each of the foregoing on common paper. In all must be specified the mark and number of each parcel, specifying its contents, quality, quantity, &c., either in local or foreign measurement, but the consignee may put if he wish «contents unknown,» and the papers are then sent to the Contaduria, the consignee either paying the duties cash, or giving the usual guarantee. The proper clerk then puts «despachese» on the manifests, and «conforme» on the bill of lading, as also on the copies. If the consignee has put «contents unknown» the inspector proceeds to open the case and note down its contents. The consignee presents the document at the Contaduria, the clerk stamps same, and specifies the employee who is to despatch the goods. This document must next be counter-signed by the proper Vista, who sends it to the warehouseman, retaining the manifest for comparison. The warehouseman has to weigh the goods or measure them. The Vista assesses them at the valuation in the tariff, and, if not expressed therein, he puts his own valuation. In case the importer resist the valuation, and that the Vista do not alter it within three days, the Custom-house shall be obliged to take the goods at such valuation. If the goods be damaged they must be sold by auction within fifteen days, and the duties

assessed at 23 per cent. under the auctioneer's returns. In all cases of disagreement between the merchant and the Vista it shall be decided by the Tariff Committee, from whose decree there is no appeal for goods specified in the tariff. The Vista then writes «despachado» on the copy, and the manifest is sent to the Contaduria. The Alcaidia clears the goods, and archives said copy. In comestibles and liquors the Vista often puts «despachado» before measuring them, but the measurement is afterwards noted. The Contaduria recovers the duties cash, when not amounting to \$50 s., or if there be no bail. All duties payable cash must be satisfied within five days from notification. The consignee in paying the duties must take a memorandum of their amount from the Contaduria to the Tesoreria, which latter office gives a receipt in due form. The Contaduria draws bills at four months, which are presented to the consignees, and must be accepted within five days, whereupon they are sent in to the National Treasury. Extra duties must be paid cash, in precisely the same way as those not amounting to \$50 s.

PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE AND SPECIE.

Luggage, parcels, and samples may be landed at the passengers' wharf without permit, and before the vessel is registered for unloading. The Resguardo examines the luggage and shows it to the Vista, who despatches it if the value be under \$10 s. If the value be over \$10 s., and under \$50 s., the Vista calculates the duties and a stamp of 25 cents., which must be paid to the Inspector of the Resguardo before letting the goods pass. If the value be over \$50 s. the Resguardo sends the parcel with a papeleta to the Custom-house, where the Alcaidia takes charge of same. Specie may also be despatched by the Resguardo, without waiting for the ship to be formally entered; but in case the consignee do not wish to run the risk of opening the parcel, the Resguardo seals the same, telling the consignee that he must produce it in the same condition within forty-eight hours at the Tesoreria under pain of \$500. The Treasury counts it and delivers it at once to the owner.

GOODS FOR DEPOSIT.

Permits for storing goods are made on a 25 cent. duplicate stamp, the merchant declaring the name and port of the ship, the marks, number, and contents of the packages, and presenting same at the Contaduria within eight days of the ship's arrival: passing this term there is a fine of 2 per

cent. *ad valorem*. In the copy bill of lading the merchant may put «contents unknown.» The goods are afterwards at the merchant's disposal, to be sold or transhipped, either the whole or in part, and if undisposed of after two years the storage may be renewed in form. In despatching bonded goods the form is similar to that used for «direct despatch:» there must be a manifest on a 25 cent stamp, and two copies on plain paper. Petitions for «transbordo» or «retorno» of goods not landed must be made within forty days of the ship's arrival. Petitions for re-shipment of goods in transit must be made on three papers for sailing ships, and four for steamers, two of them with 25 cent stamp, expressing the ship's name, date of arrival, nature of goods, &c. Goods that have lain two years in deposit can be re-stored at the expiration of the legal term: the merchant presents a permit at the Contaduria on a 25 cent stamp, with copy on common paper, which after receiving the «conforme» is sent to the Alcaidia. One of the warehouse inspectors proceeds to the store in question and compares the goods: if the store be a private deposit there is no warehouse fee, and the Contador puts his «conforme;» but if it be a Customs warehouse the merchant must pay at the Treasury the warehouse and «eslingage» fees for the two years past, getting receipt for same. The Custom-house allows packages to be broken up, provided they be taken to the «Deposito de fracciones.» Two permits are requisite, one on a 25 cent stamp, and specifying in what deposit the goods are: the Alcaidia gives the necessary order to the warehouse inspector, who delivers the goods to two Ayudantes and returns receipt for same, with the «conforme,» to the Contaduria: the goods so broken up are then despatched either for the market or transshipment, in the same manner as if whole packages. Merchants may also cut off a sample, on condition of restoring same when clearing the article: a permit is requisite on a 25 cent stamp, expressing the usual particulars and the quantity required for a sample for the Contaduria and Alcaidia despatch.

EXPORT TRAFFIC.

When a vessel wishes to load for foreign parts, the consignee, broker, captain, or other person, makes a petition to the Administrator for permission to be placed on the berth, expressing the name, class, nationality and destination. The stamp is determined by the ship's tonnage. The petition is lodged at the «Mesa de despacho directo» in the Contaduria, for the vessel to be entered; it is then sent to the Secretaria,

which in turn passes it to the Resguardo, and finally it is sent to the office of clearances or «salidas á ultramar.» The vessel is then ready to receive cargo. In shipping produce that is subject to export duties the shipper must present two permits on 25 cent stamps, specifying the ship's name, &c., and the produce to be shipped, as also the point of shipment. The «Mesa de Salidas» gives a ticket for such shipment. If the shipment be made from the old or new Custom-house, the «boleto» must be shewn to the Resguardo, and the barraquero or shipper sends off each cart with a «papeleta» expressing the ship's name, the lighter, the nature of goods, and the shipper: this «papeleta» is given to the Resguardo. The lighter being fully laden proceeds to the ship, and thus each lighter goes till all the cargo is shipped. If the goods are to be shipped from Barracas the Resguardo sends an official to weigh or count them at the barraca in the act of shipment. The barraquero gives the lighterman a «papeleta» of the goods shipped, with the names of the shipper, the lighter, and the vessel receiving; this «papeleta» is countersigned by the official and afterwards presented at the Resguardo, which gives the lighterman a «pasavante» to the Boca. Here the second Resguardo gives another to the third Resguardo, situate at the mouth of the Riachuelo. If the last has any suspicion of smuggling it sends an official to superintend the loading. When the shipment is made from the Boca the same formalities are observed. As soon as all the cargo is shipped the Resguardo returns the «boleto» to the shipper, who takes it to the Contaduria and Liquidacion for payment of the export duties. The «Mesa de salidas» having assessed the amount of these, the shipper then goes to the Tesoreria and pays same, getting a receipt for the amount. If the shipper has any «boletos de transito» these are deducted from the duties. In the event of shipping goods that are duty-free the same formalities are gone through as already expressed, except as regards duties.

SHIPMENT IN TRANSIT.

When a merchant has obtained a permit of «re-embarco» in the manner already explained, he takes it to the Alcaldia, to be stamped, &c. Either of the transit offices, in the old or new Custom-house, receives the permit after which the Resguardo is notified, that it may oversee the transshipment and then endorse the permit, previous to the inspector returning it to the merchant. If the shipment takes place at the Boca the Resguardo superintends the operation and endorses the permit «embarcado.» The

goods being re-embarked the merchant presents the permit at the Contaduria, which assesses the warehouse fees to be paid at the Tesoreria, the latter giving receipt for same in due form.

RE-EXPORTATION OF GOODS.

Goods that have been duly cleared and have paid duties may be again shipped for foreign ports in this manner: two permits for exportation are presented to the «Mesa de salidas» on a 25 cent stamp, with the usual particulars and specifying that the goods have already paid duty; the permit is then sent to the Resguardo, who oversees the shipment.

CLEARING VESSELS FOR ABROAD.

When a vessel has taken in all her cargo the consignee gives on oath a full return of same, according to the bills of lading, to the «Mesa de salidas,» which sends him to the «despacho directo»; the latter office compares the papers, to see if the vessel has discharged all the cargo expressed in her manifest on arrival in port. But if it happen that there are goods not cleared by the consignees, the office will require a certificate from the Alcaidia that such goods are in deposit, before clearing the vessel. These formalities being fulfilled, the merchant presents to the Oficina de Entradas a petition with same stamp as that for breaking bulk, begging that the vessel may be cleared for such or such port. This permit is granted with the note (after payment of duties), and the permit is sent to the Mesa de Salidas. The merchant next presents a Guia on \$3 stamp, expressing ship's name, class, &c., and a full manifest of all her cargo: the manifest is countersigned by the Administrador and Contador, and then given to the captain.

CAPTAIN'S AND HEALTH PAPERS.

Before clearing a vessel the Mesa de Salidas shall calculate from the consular papers the amount of port-dues, including the health-paper, which the captain shall pay at the Tesoreria, in the same manner as the entrance dues on arrival. The Mesa then advises the consul by certificate that the vessel is duly cleared, and notifies the Capitania in like manner. The

captain having procured the certificates for his Consul and the Capitania, also the ship's manifest and health patent, he proceeds to the Consulate for his navigation papers, lodged there on arrival: after this he goes to the Consul of the country of his destination, to have his papers «viséed,» then to the Capitania to pay light dues, and finally to the Resguardo on the mole to have his manifest compared with the «papeletas» given on shipment of produce. When once cleared the vessel can do no operation further than to receive luggage, which merely passes inspection on the mole. For provisions, the captain, consignee, or broker, may at any time draw up a permit on a 25 cent stamp, and present it the Mesa de Salidas, which at once grants same, subject to the surveillance of the Resguardo. (The Customs-law proper for the year will be found in Section A).

CHAP. VII.

BOLSA, BANKS, AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

THE BOLSA DE COMERCIO.

THE *Bolsa* is a handsome building, in the best part of the city, being situate in Calle San Martin, near the corner of Cangallo. The hall is spacious, lofty, and well ventilated, with a ring in the centre, around which the brokers assemble when transacting business. The brokers meet at 11 A.M., and you will hear them in a loud voice offering to buy or sell Government bonds, gas shares, &c., till 2 P.M., when the merchants meet. The attendance on 'Change often numbers several hundred persons, and the hall can scarcely accommodate all the members. Groups of English and Germans may be seen in the wing on the left, French and Italians on the right, and a general mixture of these and other nations indiscriminately through the hall. Half a dozen languages are currently spoken on all sides, the most general being English and Spanish. The large black board on the right gives the various quotations of stock and transactions of the day; on the opposite side is another board, with quotations of produce: the liquidation room and reading room are at the further end of the hall. Upstairs there is a board room, which occupies the whole front of the building, and a committee room adjoins, which is sometimes used for meetings, also the manager's offices. The busiest hour on 'Change is about 2.30 P.M., and strangers can get a visitor's ticket through any of the members. In the time of Rosas there was no Bolsa, but the merchants and brokers used to have a rendezvous at one or other private office. About

twenty years ago there was a «Camuati» at the house now occupied by Manigot the hatter, in Calle Florida; this is a Guarani word signifying a beehive, and the name was still applied to the various points of re-union, as circumstances obliged a change of locality from time to time. The house which is now the *Tribuna* office was expressly taken for the purpose, and a kind of society established, till put down by the police agents of Rosas. A French broker named Loiseau took a house next the public baths in Calle Piedad and revived the association: subsequently it removed to Calle Victoria, and then to Calle Piedad, next door to the Café de Suizos, where it was again put down by the police. A few days after the fall of Rosas (1852) the «Camuati» again assembled, in a store belonging to Mr. Armstrong, near the corner of Piedad and Reconquista. It was transferred to Haedo's house in Calle San Martin, and on the 10th July, 1854, a regular Bolsa was established, at a meeting of 118 merchants and brokers in the hall of the Tribunal of Commerce. A committee was framed of Messrs. Llavallol, Gowland, Moreno, Monasterio, Pico, Biedma, Bornefield, Casares, Martinez de Hoz, Lynch, Serna, and Sorondo, who took the house where Mr. Hart's office now is, and here the Bolsa was located for some years. In 1860 it was resolved to build a new Bolsa, and a joint-stock company was formed, with a capital of \$1,380,000, in shares of \$1,000 each: the building was completed in a year and a half, and inaugurated with great pomp by General Mitre, in February 1862. The subscription is \$50 a month, and the annual profits are distributed thus: 90 per cent. to the shareholders, 10 per cent. to the members in general. The institution has been so successful that the shares are at a high premium and difficult to be obtained: the annual dividends are 12 or 15 per cent. No one can become a member unless resident over twelve months in the country and engaged in commercial pursuits, besides being recommended by a merchant. Brokers must have two recommendations. Consuls are admitted as honorary members. Ship captains are admitted free.

THE PROVINCIAL BANK.

The *Casa de Moneda*, or Provincial Bank, 29 Calle San Martin, was founded on January 15th 1822 by a meeting of foreign and native merchants, presided over by the Finance Minister Don Manuel Garcia, its first operations being merely as a discount bank. In 1826 it was converted into a national bank, under the title «Banco de las Provincias Unidas:» this in turn made way for the Casa de Moneda, in 1836, and as the currency

had been frequently tampered with in the interim, by successive emissions, the value of the paper dollar fell, from 4 shillings, as low as sixpence. In 1826 the circulating medium amounted to \$2,694,856, the exchange being quoted in February of that year at \$18 to the doubloon, or about. 44 pence to the dollar. In October 1829 the rate was 108 to the doubloon, or $7\frac{1}{2}$ pence to the dollar, and from this time the currency never recovered itself; when Rosas reformed the bank in 1836 the circulation amounted to $15\frac{1}{4}$ millions, the rate being 122 to the doubloon. But the subsequent depreciation of the currency was rapid and ruinous; many people suddenly lost large fortunes, so violent were the fluctuations in even one day. The emissions of 1837-39 amounted to 24,000,000, and in November of the latter year the currency stood at \$300, leaving the paper dollar worth $2\frac{1}{2}d$. But it had not yet touched «bathos,» for in the following year (1840) Rosas emitted 12,000,000 and the luckless paper dollar fell to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence, or 570 to the doubloon. Nevertheless a recuperative period ensued, during a term of six years without any fresh emission; in 1844 the dollar had risen as high as 4 pence, or 200 to the doubloon, and continued so till the close of 1845. In January 1846 Rosas emitted 75,000,000, and the currency fell considerably below 2 pence: the circulation now amounted to 126,000,000. After the fall of Rosas the emissions grew more frequent, viz, two in 1852, and five in the year following, in all 91,000,000. Then was invented the amortization by burning, 7,250,000 were burned in 1853, after this the paper dollar improved to $2\frac{1}{2}$ pence, at which figure it was almost stationary for a long time. War with General Urquiza ensued in 1859, and an emission of 85,000,000 took place, the dollar again falling to 2 pence. A second civil war broke out in 1861, which called for 100,000,000 more, and further depreciated the currency, till it was judged expedient to pass a law declaring any future emission illegal. At the same time the burning was resorted to, monthly, and 55,000,000 were thus consumed, when another law was made to stop the same, September 9th, 1863. At the beginning of 1864 the circulation amounted to 340,000,000, and in the absence of wars or fresh emissions the money-market sustained a long and painful crisis from enormous speculation. The fluctuations were ruinous to the honest hard-working tradesmen, and also affected the price of staple articles of produce. A great outcry was made, various schemes were proposed for a fixed currency, and laws were passed under Governor Saavedra's administration which proved illusory towards bringing any remedy. In 1866 the Alsina cabinet boldly established an Oficina de Cambios, where gold and paper were freely given at 25 «pesos» to the hard dollar: notwithstanding all manner of evil predictions, the currency

has remained ever since at this fixed valuation of 2 pence to the paper dollar, and the benefit to legitimate trade has been incalculable: the city merchants presented Governor Adolfo Alsina and his Finance Minister, Don Mariano Varela, with a handsome gold medal. The last reform of the bank constitution was in 1854, when it was denominated «Banco y Casa de Moneda de Buenos Ayres,» and many wholesome improvements were instituted by the advice of Dr. Velez Sarsfield. This distinguished statesman is regarded almost as the founder of the bank, and his full length portrait is seen in the board-room. The board is composed of sixteen merchants, one-half foreigners, annually named by the Provincial Government. The directors sit daily for the transaction of business. The old bank-notes of the time of Rosas had the motto «Long live the Restorer of the laws! Death to the foul and savage Unitarios! :» these are very rare now. The currency of 1854, printed in London, had emblematic devices of commerce and industry; the engraving was good, but the paper inferior. In 1864 machinery was procured from England and a new issue made, the paper being so bad as to crumble away in a few days, and offering every facility for forgery. The first bank forgeries in Rosas's time were rudely executed, a sample being still kept in the Museum, and the delinquent was shot. In late years forging bank-notes has unfortunately become a constant practise, and a considerable proportion of the currency is forged, so cleverly as frequently to escape detection. The new notes, however, printed by the New York Bank-note Co. in 1868, are of very superior quality, and henceforward forgery will be extremely difficult. The ordinary currency consists of notes of \$1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000, and 5,000, thus ranging from 2 pence to £40: besides these there are specie-notes of various values to a high amount. The bank has great fiscal privileges, and in bankrupt cases enjoys a priority over all other creditors. No other bank in Buenos Ayres has right of issue. Deposits for the law-courts and public departments gain no interest: moneys belonging to minors are ordered to be lodged here, but gain the usual interest. The Western Railway owes \$59,000,000 to the bank, for the sections from Moreno to Chascomus. During the Paraguayan war the Government obtained great facilities in the negotiation of public funds emitted for the purpose, on the guarantee of extra duties. The bank profits are large, and go to increase its capital. The Directors receive no salary. Among the improvements of recent years have been the opening of accounts-current, and the establishment of eight branches throughout the Province: the first branch, at San Nicolas, was established in 1863. The bank paper-money is declared a legal tender throughout the whole Republic. It is proposed to build a new bank on the

site at present occupied. The bank regulations are as follows:—Deposits of not less than \$400 m/c and \$16 s. received. These deposits will not be entitled to interest if withdrawn before the expiration of sixty days from the date of such deposit; after sixty days they will be entitled to interest from the date of deposit. All interests not collected shall, at the end of each year, be capitalized. All deposits at interest shall be entered in a book which the bank will deliver to the depositors, in which all payments of interest and capital shall be entered, and all interest shall be payable after the first of the month or on taking out the deposit. The bank discounts bills with two signatures having from seventy to ninety days to run; it also discounts mercantile bills of from seventy days to six months, on condition that at maturity they are paid in full. The bank draws at sight upon the following branches:—Dolores, San Nicolas, Lobos, Salto, Chivilcoy, Mercedes, Baradero, and Azul. The bank pays commission to brokers on the first discounting of bills and promissory notes. The bank lends to artisans and operatives sums of from \$3,000 to \$20,000, taking as security a document with any well-known signature. Credits in account current are opened on the following terms:—1st. The bank opens accounts current for commercial houses. 2nd. The security to be either personal or with documentary values. 3rd. In each case the bank shall fix the amount of credit. 4th. The Directory shall from time to time arrange the interest chargeable *pro* and *contra*. 5th. Each account shall be liquidated every sixty days. 6th. A pass-book shall be given to parties opening accounts current, for entry of cheques and sums deposited. Business hours from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

THE MAUA BANK.

The *Mauá Bank* was established in 1858, under the management of Mr. William Leslie, in an office in Calle Reconquista. The business increased rapidly to such an extent that it was necessary in January 1861, to remove to the present spacious premises in Calle Cangallo, Nos. 101 and 103, where it continues to do a large business, the present manager being Señor Amorins. For some years it was the only private bank in the country, and lent great assistance in accounts current to traders, besides aiding all manner of industrial enterprises, such as the Salado navigation, San Juan mines, &c. Baron Mauá has various branch banks throughout the Republic, which have the right of emission, although the bank in Buenos Ayres has not. This was the first institution that opened a savings' bank in the

Argentine Republic, to receive small sums at interest from the working classes. The clerks speak English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, &c. Foreigners about to travel up the Uruguay, through Entre Rios and the Banda Oriental, will find it convenient to provide themselves with a letter of credit from the Mauá Bank of Buenos Ayres or Montevideo, as, owing to its numerous branches in the different towns, drafts on this bank are everywhere received the same as cash: the chief circulating medium at all the saladeros and estancias on the Uruguay is Mauá bank paper. The Mauá Bank is the largest real estate holder in the River Plate, owning immense estates on either side of the Uruguay, as also large properties in and about Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. Unlike the London and River Plate Bank, the head establishment of the Mauá Bank is in Rio Janeyro, whilst the bank here is but a branch. The banking-office, in Calle Cangallo, which the bank holds in fee, is one of the finest buildings in this city, built by a wealthy Paraguayan gentleman in 1861, who sold it to the Baron Mauá in 1866. The close proximity of the bank to the Bolsa renders it a most convenient establishment for the «almaceneros» and dealers, who have so steadily supported this bank. Mr. Souza, the deputy-manager, speaks English fluently, and is most attentive to strangers. Mr. White is the head book-keeper. The bank regulations are as follows:—1st. Bills and obligations with good signatures are discounted on conventional terms. 2nd. Money is advanced on mercantile and other securities, approved of by the Manager. 3rd. Accounts current are opened with mercantile or other parties who may prefer depositing endorsed and transferable securities, against which they may draw up to an amount previously convened, under conditions established for such class of operations. 4th. Money is received in account current, bearing interest from day of deposit, which is accumulated in favor of the parties every three months, the depositors being allowed to draw at any time, by means of cheques, part or the full amount at their wish, save when the quantity exceeds 300 doubloons or \$100,000 m/c., in which case forty-eight hours' previous notice is required to be given at the treasury of the bank. 5th. Bills or letters of credit are drawn and taken on Montevideo, Rosario, Santa Fé, Salto (Banda Oriental), Paysandú, Rio Janeyro, and other places in Brazil, England, and France, as also on other places, of which notice will be given hereafter. The establishment is always open from 10 A.M. till 3 P.M. The Savings' Bank, at No. 103 Calle Cangallo, is open from 9 A.M. till 3 P.M. every day, for the reception of the savings of the working classes, Sundays and holidays excepted. The bank will deliver to each depositor a pass-book, in which will be entered the amount deposited and withdrawn. The depositor is

permitted at any time to withdraw the whole or part of the sum deposited ; in the former case the interest will be calculated up to date. 1st. The bank receives at interest any sum from \$25 m^c. 2nd. The interest allowed is 6 per cent. per annum, which is liquidated every six months. 3rd. The depositors can at any time withdraw the whole or part of the money deposited. 4th. Once the money deposited exceeds \$25,000 m^c., or \$1,000 s., the depositor, if he wishes, can open an account current, according to the rules established by the bank. The Mauá Bank, as well as the London and River Plate Bank, subscribes liberally to all local charities.

THE ENGLISH BANK.

The *London and River Plate Bank*, established on 1st January, 1863, was first situate in the house of Señor Elortondo, 80 Calle Piedad, and now occupies the fine new building at the corner of Piedad and Reconquista. The bank was started by a number of London merchants, many of whom had some connection with the River Plate, the authorised capital being £2,000,000 sterling, in £40 shares, subscribed capital £1,000,000, and paid up capital £600,000: the management was entrusted to Mr. J. H. Green, a merchant of many years standing here; and the eminent financier, Don Norberto Riestra, was named Consulting Director. The success of the bank was very decided from the outset, and it soon began to rule exchange on England. The introduction of so large an amount of English gold had, at the time, a most healthy effect on our money market, and since that period all other kinds of coin have almost disappeared, while the English sovereign, previously unknown, has now become the current specie of the country. English habits of business have also gained strength in our cosmopolitan trading community, and the bank has insensibly proved a powerful medium in the industrial reformation which is being happily worked out among us. The staff of clerks quickly rose from three to a dozen, and now numbers thirty, showing how the business of the establishment has grown in six years, while branches have also been established at Rosario and Cordoba, besides the house in Montevideo, which last was founded simultaneously with that of Buenos Ayres. During the Paraguayan war the bank lent valuable aid to the National Government, by finding funds and making advances when circumstances rendered such negotiations more of a friendly favor than a business transaction. Nevertheless, the bank has not yet been able to obtain a right of issue in Buenos Ayres, as this privilege depends on the Provincial Government, which gives the State

bank a monopoly in this regard. In 1866, a panic having arisen among the working classes who had deposits in the Provincial (or State) Bank, Mr. Green came forward promptly to its support, as did also the Mauá Bank and the leading capitalists of the city. Mr. Riestra resigned his post as Director in 1865, being appointed to go to London to negotiate the loan. During some critical monetary periods the bank has passed safely and honorably, and the Rosario branch has been equally successful: the Cordoba branch does little as yet. In 1866 new shares, £20 each, were emitted in London, raising the subscribed capital to £1,500,000, and the reserve fund in 1868 amounted to £145,000. The annual dividends from the commencement have ranged between 10 and 15 per cent., and the shares are always at a good premium. The premises first taken in Calle Piedad were found insufficient in 1864, and the bank purchased the corner building of Calles Florida and Cangallo; but this was afterwards sold at a profit, it being resolved to erect a proper bank at the corner of Calles Piedad and Reconquista. This handsome structure is one of the ornaments of our city, and in the best business locality. It was commenced in January 1867, and is now completed; Mr. Hunt of this city was the architect, and had great success in the style of architecture chosen, which is of the Roman-Corinthian order. The roof came out from England, and is a very fine piece of workmanship, extremely light, and at the same time of great strength. Over the principal doorway is placed a clock, by Frodsham of London, which, besides adding to the finish of the building, is of great use in that part of the city, where the traffic is large. The grand hall is 90 feet long by 45 feet broad, and the ceiling is 42 feet high, embracing the entire height of the building: the flooring of the hall is composed of Winton's patent tiles. Besides the grand hall there are manager's rooms, consulting and waiting rooms, clerks' luncheon and dressing rooms, and porters' quarters. Every possible modern improvement has been introduced in fitting up the establishment. The furnishings are by Rough and Son, of St. Paul's Churchyard, and are of the best description, constructed on the most improved plans, with everything conducive to facilitate the despatch of business. The cashier's counter, for paying and receiving money, has a sweep of 60ft. in length. The vaults underneath are perhaps one of the most interesting features in the building; a hydraulic lift of considerable power lowers the bullion down with a very easy motion. The room is 48ft. in length by 12 ft. in width, divided into three separate compartments by strong iron bars; each compartment is laid off with marble shelving, and they are capable of accommodating, besides the treasure of the bank, any quantity of valuables that may be placed there for safe custody. The

upper portion of the back part of the building contains a very comfortable dwelling-house, occupied by the principal officials. The bank regulations are as follows:—Current accounts opened with parties properly introduced, and interest allowed on credit balances. Customers have the advantage of drawing cheques, of having approved bills discounted, of obtaining loans upon negotiable securities, of depositing bills, coupons, &c., for collection, and of lodging with the bank valuable property in the fire-proof strong rooms for safe custody. Deposit Accounts—Deposits received from the public generally—either for fixed periods or subject to seven or thirty days notice of withdrawal—interest on which is regulated by the market value of money, the bank notifying any change in the rate by advertisement in the principal daily papers. Bills of Exchange issued on the following places:—London, Dublin, Liverpool, Paris, Antwerp, Hamburg, Genoa, Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo, Rosario, Cordoba, and all branches of the National Bank of Scotland. Business hours, 10 A.M. to 3.30 P.M. every day.

THE ARGENTINE AND OTHER BANKS.

The *Argentine Bank* was established in 1867, through the exertions of Messrs. Cullen, O'Shee, Lanuz, Iturraspe and other influential merchants and capitalists. It was founded on the basis of the Rosario Bank, a flourishing institution with some branches in Entre-Rios. The capital was fixed at \$2,000,000, in shares of \$100 (£20) each, of which \$60 were called up, and the bank commenced a good and lucrative business under the management of Señor Marcó del Pont; the dividend declared for the last half year (1868) was at the rate of 22 per cent. per annum. The premises are situate next door to the Provincial Bank, in a house belonging to Judge Medina, which had previously been fitted up as a small theatre. In the first allotment of the city by Don Juan de Garay, on June 11th, 1580, this site is marked No. 7, and was given to an adventurer named Estevan Alegre. The counting-house and savings-bank are on either sides of the entrance, and the manager's office forms the fourth side of the court-yard. The business and regulations of the bank are similar to those already noted. The branches at Cordoba and Rosario happily escaped uninjured during the convulsions of 1866-68. There are also branches at Santa Fé, Paraná, Concordia, and Gualeguay; the notes of the bank are convertible at all these branches. The currency is in two kinds of paper, viz.: Bolivian dollars, and patacons or Mexican dollars. Most of the shareholders are

Argentines, but there are also some Englishmen and other foreigners holding a large number of shares. Office hours, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

The *Wanklyn Bank* is a private establishment greatly patronized by the English and American houses. Mr. Frederick Wanklyn, the head of the firm, is an Englishman of excellent connection and varied experience. A number of English estancieros keep accounts with this bank. The rates of interest charged and allowed are the same as at the other banks. Mr. Alfred Lumb, son of Mr. Edward Lumb, one of the oldest residents in Buenos Ayres, is partner and second manager of the concern. The banking offices are alongside the Bolsa in Calle San Martin, and occupy a part of the ground floor of Mr. Lumb's magnificent house, known as the Universelle. Wanklyn's bank is well known in the camp, as it does a very large business in small drafts on Ireland, being connected with the National Bank of Ireland. Wanklyn and Co. are also connected with the National Bank, London; Mallet Bros. & Co., Paris; Granet Brown & Co., Genoa; Vidal Cuadras & Co., Barcelona; Menendez & Barcena, Vigo; E. F. Davison & Co., New York; and give drafts for large and small amounts on all the above.

Hart's Bank.—This is also a private English bank, of high credit and repute. Mr. Henry Hart is one of the best known English bankers in Buenos Ayres, and does a very extensive banking business with the English and German importers and barraqueros. Mr. Hart is considered one of the best judges of city paper. The banking offices are in Calle San Martin, the former site of the Bolsa.

Carabassa's Bank, a private native bank, which does an immense discount business, and has some of the best English and American accounts current in Buenos Ayres. Señor Carabassa is an affable polished Spaniard, stands particularly well with foreign merchants, and is the private banker of most of the native capitalists. The new banking premises have been concluded in the present year, and combine elegance with convenience; they are situate in Calle Cangallo. The building is expressly constructed for the bank. The site was bought at auction in 1867 for \$850,000m^c.

Caprile and Picasso, Italian bankers, who do a considerable business in small drafts on Genoa.

SOCIEDAD RURAL ARGENTINA.

The *Argentine Rural Society*.—In 1858 the first effort was made towards fostering industrial interests among the rural population, by an exhibition

got up at Palermo by Messrs. Posadas, Sarmiento, Javier, John Clark, and Edward Olivera. The campaigns of Cepeda and Pavon followed, and public attention was distracted from the arts of peace. In May, 1866, Messrs. Martinez de Hoz, Richard Newton, and Olivera projected the establishment of a Farmers' Association, and on the 16th August of same year the Sociedad Rural Argentina was formally inaugurated, with Messrs. Martinez de Hoz and Newton as president and vice, the rest of the board comprising Messrs. Viton, Olivera, Temperley, Pereyra, F. Madero, Agüero, Amadeo, Molina, M. Casares, Stegmann, and Castaño: among the other founders of the club were—Messrs. Urioste, Quirno, Emilio Castro, Arana, Yraola, Judge Carril, Ramos Mejia, Bernal, Cobo, Senillosa, Munilla, Saenz Peña, Videla Dorna, E. Torres, Posadas, Alegre, R. Piñeyro, E. Stegmann, Moujan, Rodriguez, Martinez, Garcia Gonzalez, H. Torres, P. Millan, Bedoya, Fernandez, Galup, and Lezama. The object of the association was declared under the following heads:—1st. To protect rural interests; 2nd. To improve the pastoral industry; 3rd. To combine grazing with agriculture; 4th. To get scientific men to study the best method of drainage and irrigation for the camp; 5th. To ameliorate the condition of the rural inhabitants; 6th. To acclimatise refined breeds of cattle; 7th. To promote agricultural studies; 8th. To improve agricultural implements and dwellings; 9th. To study the curing of beef for exportation; 10th. To introduce useful seeds and plants; 11th. To establish relations with foreign markets; 12th. To study the economic resources of the country. The society has been productive of great benefits to the industrial interests of the country, especially in causing the repeal of oppressive laws or duties. To its efforts are due, among other acts, the removal of import dues from salt used for saladeros, and the permission to export washed sheepskins at no higher duties than are charged for the unwashed. Moreover, the society publishes a monthly review containing important articles on the staple industries of Buenos Ayres, with valuable information and correspondence from foreign countries: this tends in a notable manner to keep alive public attention on such matters. Subscribers to the association pay \$500 m/c. entrance fee, and \$50 a month: there are also honorary or corresponding members, and the society is in relation with most of the similar associations in England, Germany, and the United States. There are at present 234 active members in Buenos Ayres. The society was first established in a house next the Post-office, Calle Bolivar: its present residence is at No. 92 Calle Peru. The reading-room has a good supply of newspapers, and a library of industrial works in English, French, German, &c., including the United States Patent-office Reports, and other valuable publications: the club-room, billiard-room,

and secretary's apartments are neatly arranged, with portraits of eminent Argentines and pictures of the leading sheep «cabañas» of Germany. There is a black-board in the hall, to mark the current prices of horned cattle, sheep, land, &c. The society permits the newly-established Jockey Club to have the use of its rooms.

The *Caja de Credito* is a joint-stock discount bank, established in 1865, under the management of M. Montravel, with a capital of \$2,800,000 in 14,000 shares of \$200, or £40 each, all paid up. It has given very profitable results, the annual dividend being usually 15 per cent.

INSURANCE AND JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

The *Bienhechora del Plata* is a savings-bank and insurance association, founded in 1864 by the leading capitalists, foreign and Argentine, and specially authorized by the National Government, in decree dated May 7th, 1864. The investments of the company are exclusively in Government 6 per cent. Bonds which are bought at prices varying from 40 to 50, thus giving over 12 per cent. per annum. Deposits are received from £1 a year up to any amount, in weekly, monthly, or yearly instalments, and the profits are liquidated every five years. There are three manners of subscribing: 1st. With loss of capital by death of insured. 2nd. Without loss of capital but with loss of interest in such event. 3rd. Subscriptions in deposit with compound interest. The 1st class of subscribers enjoy their share of compound interest on the bonds purchased by the Company; also a part of the capital forfeited by those of this class who may die; also a part of the interest belonging to those who have died. The 2nd class enjoy compound interest in the 6 per cent Government bonds; also their proportion of the interest-moneys forfeited by those of this class who have died. The 3rd class simply gain compound interest on the bonds, for the profits are capitalized every three months, and new bonds purchased. The system of insurance is exactly the reverse of what is customary in England. Thus if a father insure his child for ten or twenty years and that it die in the interim, everything is lost, unless specially enrolled in the 2nd class. Meantime there is always the option of withdrawing one's capital and profits at the expiration of every five years. Of course the largest profits accrue to the class that incurs the risk of forfeiting all by death. Deparcieux's mortality tables shew an almost incredible profit in such cases. when the first investment yields 12 per cent. per annum. Thus by payment of \$100, or £20, per annum for a child between the ages of one

and fifteen, the sum accumulated at the end of twenty-five years will be over £7,000 and under £8,000 sterling. Parties insuring between the ages of 15 and 40 will find nearly the same results, but those over 40, if they survive 25 years, will reap still greater profits. A man of 20, for example, paying £20 a year, will find himself at 25 worth £200; at 30 £600; at 35, £1,600; at 40, £3,400; and at 45 he will have £7,400. As regards the 2nd class of subscribers, who do not risk their capital, the profits may be estimated at one-eighth less than those of the 1st class. The office of the Company is at 118 Calle Piedad; manager, Don Francisco F. Moreno. Among the founders were Messrs. Arocena, Benites, Cabal, Casares, Holterhoff, Gandara, Iturraspe, Lumb, Martinez de Hoz, Leal, Miró, Mata, Ochoa, Tomkinson, and Zumaran. The subscribers number 3,000, more than half of whom are foreign residents. At the close of 1868 the amount of subscribed capital was about £600,000 sterling, and the nominal value of bonds purchased was almost £200,000. The legal residence of the Company is in Buenos Ayres, but there are agents in Montevideo and other towns of the River Plate. Bankers—the Provincial Bank of Buenos Ayres. Government-inspector—Don José Maria Cantilo.

The *Argentine Marine Insurance Company*, 118 Calle Piedad, was established in 1859, and under the management of Don Francisco F. Moreno, has given the most splendid results. The capital is \$1,024,000 s., but may be increased to \$2,000,000, in shares of \$1,000, or £200 each. The founders were Messrs. Armstrong, Casares, Iturraspe, Lezica, Paravicini, Tomkinson, Lumb, and others, who had their statutes approved by Government in October, 1860. The whole of the stock is held up by forty shareholders, and shares are very difficult to be obtained. The company insures vessels both for the rivers and the high seas.

The *Estrella Marine and Fire Insurance Company*, 118 Calle Piedad, was established in October, 1865, its statutes being duly sanctioned, with a capital of \$2,000,000 s., under the management of Don Francisco F. Moreno. The company insures all manner of properties against fire, at a fixed rate, and offers the following prizes to fire-engines arriving at a fire: \$40 to the first, \$20 to the second, \$20 for the first barrel of water, and \$4 for each of five following; also a reward of \$4 to the person who first brings to the office news of a fire in any part of the town. The founders of the Company were Messrs. Demarchi, Ochoa, Lumb, Armstrong, Martinez de Hoz, Bustamante, Zumaran, and others. In June 1866 the company obtained legal permission to make maritime insurance also a branch of their business, and now they insure vessels for ocean or river traffic.

The *Protectora Americana*, 21 Calle Las Piedras, was established in 1868,

for life insurance at a fixed rate, authorized capital \$2,000,000, the originators of the Company being Dr. Roque Perez, and Messrs. Zumaran, Belaustegui, Pico, and Mercenaro, and the manager Don Pablo Montravel. The Company gives policies payable on decease of the insured party, or pensions for old age, on payment of a premium, yearly, quarterly, or monthly.

The *River Plate Telegraph Company* was established in 1864 (see page 107 of Section A) and the cable laid across from Punta Lara to Colonia in October 1866, the line being inaugurated soon afterwards. The stock is held up among a few shareholders, and the dividend for 1868 was declared at 20 per cent. There is a great business done between Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, and since 1868 the telegraph lines of the Northern and Southern railways have come to form branches. The head-office is at Montevideo, Calle Las Piedras, and the central station at Buenos Ayres, Calle Cangallo; the intermediate stations being Colonia, San José and Rosario Colony in Banda Oriental. Messages can also be sent to or from any station on the Northern and Southern railways. Mr. Oldham is the superintendent and manager: the offices at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres are open on all week days from 8 A.M. to 7 P.M., and on Sundays for an hour in the morning and another in the evening. For charges, &c. see advertisement.

The *River Plate Credit Mobilier Company* has been recently established, the statutes having been approved by the Governor and Provincial Legislature on November 6, 1868, with a capital of \$12,000,000 in 120,000 shares of \$100, or £20, each. Among the founders of the Company are Blanco del Valle, Emilio Castro, Agote, Saavedra, Marcenaro, Teofilo Mendez, M. Casares, Moreno, Adrogué, Andres Lamas, Arocena, and Anjel Texo. Besides ordinary banking transactions the sphere of the Company is to comprehend loans, railways, immigration, and other public enterprises; there will be branches at Montevideo, Rio Janeyro, Lisbon, Madrid, Barcelona, Paris, Marseilles, Bordeaux, London, Southampton, Liverpool, and Genoa. The legal domicile of the Company is in Buenos Ayres.

The *Commercial Rooms*, situate at No. 69 Calle Mayo. This is a very old and useful institution, belonging to Mr. Daniel Maxwell; it possesses the double advantage of a first-class reading-room and an observatory furnished with the best telescopes in the River Plate. Besides local and English papers, we find the leading German, French, Spanish and American journals and magazines. The observatory contains a collection of charts, signal books, &c., and the windows command an unrivalled view of the port and shipping. The azotea or roof offers a pleasant promenade. Every

kind of commercial information for the city is here procured, a slate is kept with daily maritime lists, and letters from Montevideo and elsewhere will be found with last trade reports, on the reading room table. The subscription is \$200 per quarter, but ship-masters, supercargoes, pilots, naval officers, and several local authorities are admitted gratis. Visitors' tickets may also be obtained. The entrance to the Rooms is in Calle Mayo, and there is a staircase leading out on the beach. Mr. Maxwell is the best authority in town on industrial statistics.

The *South American Steam Navigation Company*, 36½ Calle Cuyo, has steamboat lines on all the rivers, Mr. William Matti being the principal shareholder: the capital is 300,000 hard dollars, in shares of \$1,000 each, all paid up. The line is well managed, the steamers are commodious, and the last dividend was 15 per cent. There are six steamers weekly to Rosario, two to Corrientes and Paraguay, three to Paraná, four to San Nicolas, one to Zarate and San Pedro, one to Gualeguay, two up the river Uruguay, and two to Montevideo.

The *Rio de la Plata Steam Company*, founded in 1866 by Don Juan José Mendez and others, despatches a vessel to Paraguay, Corrientes, and intermediate ports. The *Estrella Steamboat Company*, founded by Captain Davies, plies to Rosario and the smaller ports.

There are in Buenos Ayres several other insurance and steamboat companies of which we have no particulars. There are also agencies for Chilian and English life assurance companies, and branch-banks of establishments that will come to be mentioned in treating of the Provinces. The agencies of the English and French steamboat lines cannot be included in this chapter of local institutions.

There are various associations of a mutual and friendly character, such as the Typographic Society the Spanish Mutual Aid Association, the Cricket Club, the Oddfellows, the British Clerks, the Philharmonic Society, the Masonic Fraternity, the Athletic Club, the Jockey Club, the Italian Benevolent Society, the St. Vincent de Paul Confraternity, &c.

The *British Clerks' Provident Association* was founded by Mr. F. M. Wells and other mercantile gentlemen on September 1st, 1861. Although limited in number it has been successful in a monetary sense, the annual dividends ranging from 12 to 18 per cent. In March 1868 there were twenty-nine members, holding 218 shares, which amounted to \$5,263 s., and \$176,343 paper, or an aggregate of £2,400 sterling. The society meets at the British Library. Each share represents a subscription of \$2 silver, or \$50m^c; the association is of especial benefit in giving habits of economy to younger clerks.

The *Typographic Society* provides a sick and burial fund for printers; the Spanish and Italian societies support their sick or distressed countrymen; the Philharmonic Club gives concerts at the Coliseum: the Vincent de Paul Society visits and relieves the poor and sick throughout the city.

The *Oddfellows Society* numbers about seventy members, and is of a mutual aid character: the lodge room is situate at No. 96 Independencia. The members have an annual dinner in the month of March.

The *Cricket and Athletic Clubs* have their grounds at Palermo, where matches and meetings come off at certain periods. A stand-house and tent have been erected, and the festivities are sometimes attended by as many as 5,000 ladies and gentlemen, mostly foreign residents.

The *Freemason Lodges* are very numerous, comprising Argentine, English, French and Italian circles. The English lodge gives its annual dinner on June 24th at the Provence Hotel. In the Museum is preserved a diploma of a Dublin lodge, called after St. Patrick, and bearing date as far back as the last century. President Sarmiento, General Mitre, and General Urquiza are free-masons.

The *Jockey Club*, founded in 1868, for the purpose of promoting in this country horse-racing, meets at present in the rooms of the Sociedad Rural, and numbers sixty members. Members of the club only are allowed to enter and ride horses. The committee is as follows:—Honorary President and Vice-President, their Excellencies President Sarmiento and Vice-President Alsina; Chairman, Don Carlos Casares; Vice-Chairman, H. Tomkinson, Esq.; Secretary, G. P. Craufurd, Esq.; Treasurer, F. Plowes, Esq.; W. Welchman, Esq., Dr. B. Irigoyen, Don H. F. Varela, Don A. C. Cambaceres, Don E. Oldendorff. The first meeting was held at Randall's, near the Jeppener Station of the Southern Railway, on the 8th and 9th of September, 1868. The Provincial Government gave a prize silver cup, value \$5,000, which was won by H. Tomkinson, Esq., with Gauchito beating Old Warden and Cochin China, belonging respectively to W. Welchman, Esq., and W. M'Clymont, Esq. It is intended to hold for the present two meetings annually in Belgrano, one in the autumn and another in the spring. But as soon as the funds of the Club will permit the necessary outlay, a piece of ground will be purchased in one of the suburbs of the city with the intention of forming a race-course with grand stand and pleasure grounds for the use of the members and their families.

CHAP. VIII.

THE SUBURBS.

THERE are three principal suburbs, viz., Belgrano, Flores, and Barracas : the first two are fashionable outlets much frequented in the summer months ; the last-named is an industrial entrepot situated on the Riachuelo. All three are connected by rail with the city, and boast numerous beautiful quintas.

BELGRANO.

This charming town is two leagues distant from the city by the Northern Railway, and has become in a few years one of the prettiest places in the River Plate. It was founded in 1854 by Don Santiago Tobal, during the administration of Governor Alsina, and called after a distinguished Argentine General who fought in the War of Independence. The situation is pleasant, on a high ground about a mile from the river ; the number of quintas belonging to the leading families of the city is very considerable, those of Messrs. Alsina, Amorins, Guerin, Matti, Plowes, Esteves Segui, Arriola, Agrelo, Bosch, Berger, Calvo, Costa, Demot, Antignes, Arzeno, Androquez, Elias, Fusoni, Gowland, Francischelli, Hartenfels, Iturraspe, Miró, Newton, Oliver, Pelvilain, Piaggio, Ravier, Solanet, Saavedra, Haycroft, Llambi, Benn, James Brown, Wells, Rossi, Lamas, &c., being among the most remarkable. On the hill overlooking the railway is a tasteful little chapel, in front of which are some venerable

Ombúes. This chapel has become too small for the congregation, and a large church is being erected in the Plaza. On the east side of the Plaza is the public school, built in the Grecian style. At the next corner is the Juzgado. No one is allowed to gallop through the streets of the town. At the west end is the race-course, where the foreign and Argentine racing clubs hold their meetings periodically: there is a fine stand house, and the course is nine furlongs round; the meetings are always attended by all the wealth and fashion of Buenos Ayres. The Rev. Mr. Goodfellow has an English school in the town, for which the Provincial Government allows a monthly subsidy of \$2,000; it was founded in August 1867, and is under the charge of Mr. John T. Thompson: the system of instruction is that of the United States' schools, and comprises the elements of a commercial education, science, modern languages, Greek and Latin; this school is very useful in the summer months, when so many foreign families come here for the season. In winter Belgrano is all but deserted, but at the approach of the hot season, in November, the most extravagant rents are demanded; houses which may be bought for £1,000, commonly fetch £200 or £300 for the summer months. Watson's hotel, close to the railway station, is a first-rate English house, good wines and cookery, and everything very neat. On Sunday mornings parties often come out for breakfast; the garden attached to the hotel covers several acres. Adjoining the station is a croquet ground or promenade; a band plays here every Sunday evening. A tramway is projected to connect Belgrano with the city, running along the barranca; this would give a cheaper mode of transit than the present railway charge. In summer there are twelve trains daily to and from Belgrano. The partido of Belgrano comprehends a number of chacras or farms; in some we see wheat and vegetables cultivated on a large scale; in others there are fine breeds of horses and cattle. This district was formerly included in the partido of San Isidro, but it now has a distinct Municipality, Justice of Peace, and Curate, whose jurisdiction extends half way to the city, and includes Palermo, once the residence of Rosas. From a statistical report in 1867 we take the following figures:—Belgrano has 63 chacras with an aggregate of 2,000 acres, 230 azotea houses, 150 do. with straw roof, four draperies and eighteen grocery stores; the farming stock is not numerous, comprising only 1,400 horned cattle, 1,420 horses, 200 sheep, and 300 swine; the population is set down at 2,946, National Guards 280, Alcaldes and police 37; the Municipality is composed of six members. According to the educational returns we find the State school is attended by 78 boys and 89 girls, showing an increase of nearly double the returns of 1864.

PALERMO.

This place was the residence of Rosas, once surrounded with beautiful gardens and plantations, but now it is a miserable ruin, the palace falling to decay, the fences destroyed, the timber cut down, and the whole place a scene of desolation. During many years Rosas devoted much attention to the grounds, with the view of making Palermo the finest residence in South America: he had a number of men provided with tooth-brushes employed in keeping the trees free of insects, and the gardens contained the choicest fruits and flowers. Shady avenues led down to the water's side; nothing was spared that taste and wealth could devise; the palace itself was a handsome Moorish structure, with colonnade on all sides; the apartments were large, lofty, and richly decorated. Here the tyrant held his court for many years, till the battle of Caseros, 3rd February, 1852, resulted in his overthrow. General Urquiza established his headquarters in Palermo on the following day. In 1856 Señor Posadas got up an Agricultural Exhibition here, but the hatred to the name of Rosas seems to have prevented any efforts towards keeping the place from ruin. So late as 1859 the principal avenue, with its lofty rows of trees, was intact. In 1862 Mr. Paris proposed to make Elysean Gardens here, but the project fell through. It was, however, still the favorite resort of the wealth and fashion of Buenos Ayres on summer evenings, when the Palermo road was always thronged with horsemen and gay equipages. Subsequently the Municipality of Belgrano sold some of the timber for firewood, and the work of destruction was actively begun: the palace was next let out for a boarding-school—*Escuela de Artes*—the proprietor of which built up the beautiful colonnades with unsightly bricks (not even plastered), and left the place an ugly wreck, fit only for owls to make their abode in. It is painful to walk through the ruined halls: the library, parlor, and dining-room may still be traced, and the ball-room (100 feet by 20 feet) forms one side of the quadrangle. The azotea has a view of the city and roadstead. The only plantation remaining is on the river's side: here duels are sometimes fought. The Northern Railway runs through the park, and near the station is the English Cricket ground: a little further is the new powder mill of Messrs. Liesenberg & Co., a wing of which blew up in 1867; it is now working well.

The road from Palermo to town was the only decent highway in the country till very recently, but now it is as bad as the rest, and the neat iron fences are all broken down. Messrs. Lezica & Co. have started a «graseria» for melting down sheep, near the Rifleros, which will be most

injurious to the water supply taken from the River Plate a few perches lower down. These works have been recently put up by Mr. Coghlan, C.E., for the Provincial Government, at a cost of £50,000, and can distribute 1,300,000 gallons of filtered water daily through the city.

Passing the Recoleta we find a series of charming quintas along the «barranca» all the way into town. Whitfield's is one of the finest; it was built in 1823 by Mr. Wilson alias Whitfield, who had been a soldier at St. Helena and, coming to Buenos Ayres, established the first English apothecary's shop in this city. The Klappenbach quintas are occupied by English families: the grounds have been recently sold out in building lots. The Povero Diavolo is a well-known tavern, with bowling-alleys, &c. Just below the fine quinta of Señor Estrada is Chassaing's new steam-laundry, a first-class establishment, provided with the most improved American machinery: it is quite a boon to the city, which formerly depended solely on black washerwomen.

We have now reached the terminus of the Northern Railway, in the Paseo Guardia Nacional, as the adjacent thicket of willow-trees is called. The battery «a fleur d'eau» has six guns for firing salutes.

FLORES.

San José de Flores is nearly two leagues from town by the Western Railway, and situated on a gently rising ground, with a fine view of the camps westward. The village takes its name from the founder, Don Juan Diego Flores, who ceded the ground for the purpose, and commenced a small chapel thereon. In 1808 Bishop Lue formed it into a parish out of the territory of San Isidro, the first curates being Don Simon Bustamante and Don Miguel Garcia. The place began to attain some importance under Don Antonio Millan, who marked out the building lots and projected the building of the church. On the 11th December 1831, the church was consecrated by Bishop Medrano; it consists of three naves, and measures 120 feet long by 50 feet wide. Amongst the principal benefactors were Messrs. Terrero and Boneo. In this church was signed the treaty of 1859 between General Urquiza and the city of Buenos Ayres. Half a century ago Flores was the favorite suburb, but it suffered severely during the civil wars up to 1859. Since that time it has revived a little, and there are now many pretty quintas along the line of railway. The high road has been allowed to fall into such decay as to become almost intransitable. The partido is small, comprising only six square leagues of land, now exclusively occupied in gardens, meadows, or grain farms. So late as the

year 1855 there were «*rodeos*» of cattle in this partido. The town is a straggling place; on the south side of the Plaza is the church with its two belfries; on the east side the public school, a fine building with Grecian front and portico. There are 979 houses, of which 593 have azotea roofs, four are dry-goods stores, and eighty-three grocery and general ware stores. There are 422 chacras, covering about 9,000 acres; the farming stock comprises 2,472 horned cattle, 4,232 horses, 5,320 sheep, including 500 Saxony do., and 1,332 swine. At Caballito the traveller will admire the fine edifice occupied by Mr. Negrotto's school. On the road we remark the quintas of many wealthy city residents. Before reaching Flores a pretty cottage with gothic gables arrests our attention; it belonged for many years to the amiable and accomplished Manuelita Rosas, who fled to England on the downfall of her father, but still keeps the place in the utmost neatness and style. The prettiest quintas are those near the railway. Mr. Boyd's, called «*Rose-hill*,» is a delightful place, formerly the country-house of Mr. Parody; the gardens cover about six acres: on the opposite side of the railway is Dorrego's quinta, where General Urquiza had his head-quarters in 1859. Between the Caballito and Flores stations are the quintas of the eminent financier, Señor Riestra, of Dr. Pardo, Señor Terrero, and many others. That of Marcó del Pont, at the Flores station, presents a beautiful spectacle in Spring, being surrounded and festooned with roses. About 500 yards westward is the delightful residence of Mr. David Methven, who bought the place in 1867 from Señor Coquet: the latter gentleman had expended a great deal of money, during sixteen years, to render this quinta what it now is; the grounds are interspersed with shady bowers, fountains, flower-knots, vineries, hot-houses, statuary, &c. and the view of fields and meadows on all sides brings vivid recollections of English farm scenery. South of the railway there are also two fine quintas, belonging to Mr. John Hughes and Mr. Stegman; the latter is occupied by Mr. H. A. Green. Nearer to the village are the cottages of Mr. Neild, Mr. Forrester, the late Dr. Leslie, and other foreign residents. Flores was once very famous for its cock-pit, and crowds would assemble on Sundays to witness the sport; but, of late years, cock-fighting has gone out of fashion, much to the regret of the «*pulperos*.» There is a respectable Club of young men here in the summer months, when balls are often given on Sunday evenings. It is not easy to find houses to-rent for the summer months, but building-lots may be had very cheap, and many families reside here all the year round. The population of the district is set down as follows: Argentines 2,841, Italians 1,641, French 355, Spaniards 330, English 169, Germans 40, Indians 2, various 87—Total

5,435. The State schools are attended by 91 boys and 126 girls, shewing an increase of one-third over the returns for 1863. Flores has a Justice of Peace, a municipality composed of six members, 463 National Guards, and fifty-eight Alcaldes and policemen. There is no hotel in the place, and the shops are of an inferior order. Dr. Fitzsimons had an Irish college here in 1865, but he has since removed to the province of Entre-Rios. General Gelly-Obes has a quinta near Caballito, and Dr. Velez Sarsfield's is near Almagro. The Italian «chaereros» raise beautiful fields of lucerne, which give splendid hay-crops: they also make much money by fruit and vegetables. The district of Flores is a succession of gardens, orchards, country-houses, &c. from the moment we leave the Plaza Once de Setiembre till we reach Floresta.

BARRACAS.

Barracas is just one league south from the Plaza Victoria, and was at the beginning of the present century a charming outlet much frequented by English families. Thus from Horn's hill, where Mr. Mackinlay resided, we pass a number of quintas, en route southwards, most of which were built by Englishmen. The Yellow House, at the turn of the road to the Boca, was built by Mr. N., who made a fortune in Paraguay, and from whose heirs it has passed into the hands of Mr. Ackerley: it was originally three stories high, but has now only two. Hard by was a brick factory, belonging to Mr. Billingham and others, which was given up in 1866: strange to say, this was the spot where the early Spaniards made their first bricks, whence the hill was called Barranca de Hornos (ovens): the name Horn's Hill is not derived from the coincidence that Mr. Horn resided here, having been so called from the earliest times. Waterloo quinta, below the British Hospital, was built by Mr. Brittain, and is now the residence of Messrs. Krabbe and Williamson. A few hundred yards westward we reach a fine old English mansion: it was built by the late distinguished hero, Admiral Brown, and two old cannons, probably taken from the Brazilians, are seen at the entrance; the quinta was purchased from the Admiral's widow in 1861, by Mr. Nowell, whose family still resides here.

On the barranca of Calle Buen Orden is the Balcarce quinta: here Admiral Coe lived for a time, and it is at present tenanted by Mr. Banfield. In 1865 the quinta was cut up for building, and the splendid Instituto Sanitario is built on this ground. The adjoining quinta belongs to Señor Gonsalez Moreno, who has rented it to Mr. Zimmermann. At the foot of Calle Buen Orden is the Suarez quinta, for some time an English grammar school, kept by the late Mr. Pongerard: it at present belongs to Mr.

Holterhoff. Opposite to the Balcarce quinta is that of Señor Cambacères, which is bounded by Langdon's fields, and is famous for delicious fruit. Further west, beyond the Southern Railway, is the Convalecencia, formerly the residence of Mr. Barton; and close to this is the Saenz-Valiente quinta, built by an Englishman in the last century, with very pretty garden and grounds. There are some cannon balls in the roof and chimney, a souvenir of the siege of Buenos Ayres in 1853.

The chapel of Santa Lucia, in the Calle Larga, is quaint and old-fashioned; it was formerly the chapel of an estanciero whose herds of horned cattle roamed over the site now occupied by Barracas, and whose estancia house is still seen (now a butcher's shop) at the Banderita corner. The feast of Santa Lucia occurs in December, and the Calle Larga is lighted with bonfires on the occasion. Videla's quinta is worthy of notice, as also a fashionable house built in the Louis Quatorze style by M. Vignal. There is another pleasant country house belonging to the wealthy family of Llavallol. Fronting the plaza of Santa Lucia is the elegant quinta of the Senillosa family: there are fountains, statues, arbors, &c., and at the end of the garden, in the rear of the house, we find a grotto and a tea-house, from the top of which there is a fine view. The Botet quintas come next, and opposite these is that of Mrs. Carreras, overgrown with weeds and fruit trees run wild. The Banderita is an ancient pulperia, famous for its horse races on Sunday afternoons: here branches off a road that leads down to the Calle Sola. The first quinta on the left was once the property of a lady named B——, a beauty in her day, who afterwards died in the public hospital: an Italian gardener now lives here. A little further, on the right, is the entrance to Saenz Valiente's quinta, where the first sod of the Southern Railway was turned, on the 8th March, 1864: the first saladero in the country was established here in the eighteenth century. Next comes Mrs. Oliver's quinta, and in front that of Dr. Casajemas, who has a beautiful nursery and some fine fruit.

Returning to the Calle Larga, we meet, on the right, the delightful cottage and gardens of Don Juan Antonio Fernandez; next, the country house of Señor Subiaurre, built in Italian style; the quinta of ex-Minister Elizalde; and opposite these the Miguens' quintas, seven in number, the first belonging to Minister Avellaneda. Passing the Segovia quinta we come to that of the Atkin's family: old Mr. Atkins was an American citizen who lent £20,000 to equip the first Argentine fleet, under Admiral Brown; he died in poverty, of a broken heart, but his family got paid in 1865. The stearine candle factory of Messrs. Holterhoff & Co. is an important establishment, provided with the most improved machinery: it was inaugurated, in

presence of the chief authorities, in 1856, and produces excellent candles; some samples were sent to the Paris Exhibition of 1867: the factory is under the immediate supervision of Mr. Holterhoff, and most of the workmen are French or Germans. Next is the handsome quinta of the Herrera family, in which ground was commenced the new church of Santa Lucia, in 1863: the design was too vast, the walls having only got 4 feet high, and it is not likely the work will ever be carried out, although a church is much needed here. The candle and soap factories of Señor Mañe and Don Julio Ardití, and the quintas of Rebol and Silvestre, intervene before reaching the castellated residence of the late Señor Escribano: this is an imitation of some feudal castle seen by Señor E. in his travels on the Rhine; he died in 1862, leaving a large fortune to an infant daughter. This part of the Calle Larga is a favorite «promenade á cheval» on moonlight nights in summer. The Torres quinta is at the corner of Calle California, crossing which we come to the Fabrica del Incendio, so called because Señor Sansinena had the misfortune to be twice burned down: it is a soap and candle factory. On the left side of the Calle Larga is Alzaga's quinta, now a soap factory, and a few steps further is the Tres Esquinas Railway Station. The Barracas Club has very commodious premises, with billiard-tables, reading-room, salle-a-manger, &c., but the dreadful miasma produced by the saladeros and myriads of poisoned fish, on the banks of the Riachuelo, pollutes the atmosphere in this neighborhood.

The village of North Barracas has little to recommend it, consisting of sundry «barracas» for storing produce, a few liquor shops, and a State school. The streets are often impassable in wet weather, although this is the great highway to the south. Cattle for the city markets are sometimes brought in by the Calle Sola, to the great risk of the foot passengers. At the bridge a toll is collected from passengers in coaches or on horseback: a new iron bridge is in course of erection, besides a railway bridge for Mr. Wheelwright's line to Ensenada. West of the bridge is a group of houses called San Antonio. Most of the inhabitants here, and throughout Barracas, are Basques or Italians: thirty years ago there was a large Irish population, employed in the saladeros of Brown, Dowdall, Armstrong, Cambaceres, Downes, &c., but they are now mostly estancieros in the camp.

The great industry of Barracas consists in its saladeros, of which there are sixteen, beginning at the Puente Alsina. The saladero is a place fitted up for the killing of cows and mares, salting the beef and hides, and boiling down the sheep and mares' flesh to extract the grease. In former years as many as 10,000 cows and mares have been slaughtered in a day, in the busy season, but owing to the depreciation of jerked beef, and the

increased taxes and expenses, this business is now diminished. Since 1866 the rendering down of sheep has become a great business, amounting to 200,000 head monthly. For many years the Riachuelo river has been used as a sewer to carry off the offal and filth of the saladeros, and the «malaria» arising herefrom has been most prejudicial to public health: the water of the river is often blood-red and poisons all the fish. In 1862 an Artesian well was sunk by Messrs. Sordeaux and Legout to cleanse the saladeros, but it failed in this purpose. In 1868, during the cholera, public indignation forced Government to close the saladeros for a period, but they still continue their pestilential labors, although a decree has been passed for their removal at a future date. Saladeros have afforded a staple trade from the earliest time of the Spaniards when the horned cattle were killed in millions, merely for their hides: in the present century a trade sprung up with Cuba and Brazil for jerked beef, which is exported thither in large quantities. The celerity with which the saladeros work is so great that 500 head are slain, cut up, salted, &c., in a few hours, with a comparatively small number of peons. The flesh is first hung in strips, to dry in the sun, and then put in an immense salted pile, previous to shipment. The peons earn from \$40 to \$200 a day, according to their skill. Between Puente Alsina and the Barracas Bridge there are six saladeros, viz.: those of Anderson, Lopez, Lezama, Cobo, Pereyra, and Medrano & Panthou. Those below the bridge are all on the south side of the Riachuelo, viz.: Llambi, Santamaria & Llambi, Cambacéres. Saavedra, Muñoa, Herrera & Baudrix, Berisso, Soler, Senillosa, and Cambacéres. The killing season usually begins in November, and ends in May, and the «faena» sometimes amounts to 400,000 head of cattle. The returns of the total «faena» in the River Plate for 1867 were as follows:

<i>Uruguay Republic.</i>			
Montevideo,	317,000	Saladero Quemado,	36,000
Fray Bentos,	66,000	Salto,	25,000
Roman,	32,000	Casa Blanca,	48,000
Arroyo Negro,	63,000		
Sacra,	31,000	Total,	648,000
Mercedes,	30,000		
<i>Argentine Republic.</i>			
Concordia,	32,000	Buenos Ayres,	444,000
Guauguaychú,	77,000		
Guauguay,	54,000	Total,	661,000
Rosario,	40,000		
Paraná,	14,000	Grand total,	1,309,000

The traveller should not omit to visit the iron girder bridge and specious workshops of the Southern railway, about 400 yards above the Barracas bridge: the bridge is one of the finest works of the kind in the continent. Hard-by is the Wool-washing factory of Mr. Isaac Rick: these works, which have been just completed, are situated about midway between the old Barracas bridge and the bridge of the Ferro-Carril del Sud on the north side of the Riachuelo. They form an entirely new industry: the wool from its usually dirty and greasy state, is converted into a material so white, clean, and free from «carretilla» and «abrojo,» and all other foreign matter, as to be scarcely recognized by those unacquainted with the process, and rendered perfectly fit for the spinners' hands on arrival in England, France, or Germany. Sorting Room—The wool in its dirty state from the shed in the yard having first been assorted here into several classes according to the length of staple and various qualities of the wool, is taken into the Scouring Room. Here it is first placed in a steeping trough containing hot-water and ingredients of a saponaceous kind, for the purpose of softening what is termed the «yolk» and loosing the dirt. Afterwards it is placed on the feeder of the scouring machine which, revolving, carries the wool into the trough of the machine holding hot-water and a scouring-liquid, which is kept at a regular temperature by means of pipes bringing steam from the boiler. The wool is carried forward in this trough by means of rakes to a cylinder which lifts the wool on to a feeder, carrying it forward to rollers, which, by means of great pressure, squeeze the water from it and render it ready for the Drying Room. In this room is a machine having a very powerful fan, making 800 revolutions per minute. The wool having been spread on the open work, the fan is set in motion, and by means of the dry-air being drawn through the wool into the fan chamber, the moisture from the wool is carried thence by means of a flue, to the outside of the galpon, and the wool is in a short time rendered dry and fit for the next process. Willowing and Burring Room—In the first of these, in a machine designated in England in common parlance a devil, the wool is next placed, and by means of a cylinder revolving rapidly (the teeth in which pass through the fixed teeth in the machine) any dirt which may have remained is separated from the wool and by a fan, carried through a flue to the outside of the galpon. In a short time the wool is ready for the burring machine, which is of a new and most successful kind. This machine being fed, the wool is carried through rollers revolving in different directions, whence it is taken by a cylinder on to a steel hooked roller revolving rapidly in one direction, so close to another smaller fluted roller revolving in the other direction, as to extract from the wool all

«carretilla,» «abrojo,» and any other extraneous matter. Above this are revolving brushes, which take the wool from the hooked roller, at the same time brushing off every particle of dust, which is carried off by means of a powerful fan through a flue leading out of the roof of the building, leaving the wool most delicately clean and fit for manufacturing purposes: it is then taken to the Packing-room and there baled for exportation. The engine, of ten-horse power, is fixed between the drying and press rooms, and by means of strong shafting and pullies running the entire length of the building, which make 200 revolutions per minute, the whole machinery and works are set in motion. The boiler and hot-water tank will be placed outside. A large tank or deposit for pumping water into from the river, has been sunk outside the building, lined with zinc, capable of holding water sufficient for nearly a week's use, so as to render the working somewhat independent of the river when low or dirty. Altogether there is an air of compactness and arrangement about the whole establishment, which must commend itself to all business men. At the Tres Esquinas, also, there is a place well worthy of notice; it is the dockyard of John Marshall, who built the first steamer in the River Plate, the *Anglo Argentine*, in 1863. Since then he has built the *Era*, the *Luxan*, the *Estrella*, and other commodious steamers for the passenger traffic of the *Paraná* and *Uruguay*; the tonnage of these steamers was as follows: *Anglo-Argentino*, 30 tons, 8-horse power; *Era*, 130 tons, 40 horse power; *Estrella*, 45 tons, 18-horse power; the interior fittings of these vessels were also done by Marshall, who has a carpenter's shop attached to his iron works; he gives employment to a large number of hands: he also constructed the vessels of light draught for Mr. Señorans' expedition up the *Rio Vermejo*. During a quarter of a century this persevering man, who came thither a poor mechanic, has toiled successfully for his adopted country and with great credit to himself, notwithstanding the oppressive duties on iron and coal, which weigh down this industry.

THE BOCA.

Following the sinuous course of the *Riachuelo* towards its mouth we pass a number of «barracas» where a bustling trade is always going on, either receiving produce from the coasting-craft, or baling wool for shipment, or embarking hides, wool and bone-ash in lighters for the vessels in the roadstead. The *Llavallol* and *Balcarce* «barracas» are notable for their great size; next come those of *Temperley* and *Bunge*. Near the last named is Mr. Younger's steam «lavadero» for washing sheepskins, the first

of the kind started in the country: this enterprising Scotchman brought his machinery from England, and began his works very successfully in 1866: since then other «lavaderos» have been established, and the Government has in a measure favoured the industry by charging no higher duties on washed wool and sheepskins than on unwashed.

We are now in the region of Italian boat builders, and the sounds of the saw and hammer are heard on all sides. This is the Boca, distant about half a league by railway from the city, and consisting of an assemblage of painted wooden houses, in the midst of a rank vegetation. The language of the place is a corrupt Genoese dialect. Numbers of coasting craft from the up river ports, the islands of the Paraná, and the Gran Chaco, bring cargoes of oranges, vegetables, charcoal, firewood, &c., for the use of the city; the master and crew are invariably Italians, and all part owners of both vessel and cargo. The Riachuelo has so many bends that the navigation is most difficult: the tides are treacherous, depending chiefly on the wind, and vessels are sometimes delayed a week or more for want of sufficient draught of water. There is a Captain of the Port, with four subordinates and fifteen sailors. The best stores are those of Casares and Roncoroni Pini. The whole village is at times inundated, the flood reaching as far as the Calle Larga of Barracas: there is also much danger of fire, the houses being of wood. The situation is low, damp, and unwholesome, and the cholera made great havoc here. There is no church for the inhabitants, who are supposed to belong to the parish of San Telmo. The communication with the city is by rail and omnibus, fare \$5 and \$3. The inhabitants are orderly and industrious, mostly occupied in building or repairing small vessels of 20 to 100 tons, which trade with all the ports of the Paraná and Uruguay. The official returns show that there are thirty of these dockyards, employing 40 master builders, 150 carpenters, 85 caulkers, 9 blacksmiths, and 25 sawyers. In 1864 they built 11 schooners and 15 smaller craft, with an aggregate tonnage of 876 tons, the timber used being all hard woods, such as urunday, algarroba, quebracho, lapacho, &c., from Paraguay and the Gran Chaco. There are 117 lighters, manned by 465 sailors, constantly engaged between the Boca and the vessels in port. The returns of coasting trade show 37 steamers and 2,902 schooners entered during the year, with an aggregate of 71,474 tons. Mr. Hodge and Mr. Sherman have foundries on the south side of the stream, with which there is a ferry. For some time the superannuated war steamers of the Republic might be seen here, as also the «drag» brought out by Government for cleansing the port, but which was suffered to stick here uselessly in the mud. In July 1867, the American clergyman, Rev.

W. Goodfellow, started a school for both sexes in the Boca. If, before leaving this industrious neighborhood, the stranger have time to visit Younger's lavadero, he will find it well worth while. The apparatus for burring and scouring, as also the baling press, are driven by steam power. The machinery is of the best description, and the scene is very animated when all is in full play. There are twenty men constantly employed, who can turn out 300 dozen sheepskins and 300 arrobes washed wool per day. Mr. Younger obtained a prize at the Paris Exhibition, the only one given for this industry in South America: his residence is adjoining the works, which are about to be enlarged to meet the increased demand: the establishment stands on eight acres. It seems clearly ascertained that the first Spanish discoverers made their landing at the Boca. There is a Resguardo at the mouth of the Riachuelo, to prevent smuggling: the adjacent grounds, south side, are the property of Mr. Demarchi. Most of the lands on the north side belonged to the Brittain family, but were sold by auction in 1865, the purchaser being Mr. Charles Jackson. The high-road from the Boca to town has been paved as far as the Yellow House, and is now a great facility to trade. The population of the Boca will probably amount to 3,000. It is situate within the municipal boundary, and has therefore no local authorities.

SOUTH BARRACAS.

The Barracas bridge being the municipal boundary, the district of South Barracas forms a distinct «partido» of the province, but it is really a suburb of Buenos Ayres. This flourishing village, distant one league from the Plaza Victoria, would be an exceedingly pleasant place but for the smell of the saladeros: these are eleven in number, as already enumerated, and give employment to a large and industrious population. There are some very good shops, and the people have a well-to-do look. The main street, Calle Mitre, is wide and well-built, but sometimes almost impassable from «pantanos.» The church is a fine new building, erected mostly by contributions from the Basques, and has two belfries that are visible several leagues off: there are six side altars, kept remarkably neat by the several families of Panthou, Gimenez, &c. to whose care they are entrusted. Don Enrique O'Gorman is owner of much landed property hereabout. In Calle Brown there is a «corral» for pigs, belonging to Señor Soler. Don Lorenzo Torres has some land bordering on the Arroyo Crucecita, which is crossed by travellers going southward, to the Puente Chico and Quilmes. The cemetery of South Barracas is not far from the church. There are

two State-schools, attended by 65 boys and 52 girls. The population in 1864 was estimated at 7,000, including 794 French, 659 Spaniards, 622 Italians, 47 Germans, 37 English, and the rest Basques or Argentines. There are 207 azotea houses, 11 dry goods' stores, 74 grocery and liquor shops, and 392 thatched houses. The chacras are 214 in number, covering about 4,000 acres of tilled ground: the partido comprises four square leagues, and the stock consists of 2787 horned cattle, 1958 horses, 3,952 sheep (including 168 fine do.) and 2,023 swine. The railway to Ensenada will follow the line of the high-road towards Quilmes: the fields on either side produce abundant crops of hay. The coast-line is low and marshy, and there is an island called Isla de Pescadores, where fugitives from justice sometimes hide themselves. The high-road to the Lomas de Zamorra branches off at the Juzgado, not far from the Barracas bridge. The municipality of South Barracas comprises the Justice of Peace and six members: there are 50 *alcaldes* and police, and the district furnishes 372 National Guards. The traveller should pay a visit to the Artesian Well in Cambacéres' *saladero*, the bore of which is eighty-nine yards deep; the water is brackish, but said to possess saline qualities, on which account baths are now established here (see page 107 of Section A). The works were begun in 1859 and concluded in March 1862, the following being the layers penetrated in boring—1st. Sand for 15 feet, the base being corrupted with filtrations from the *saladeros*. 2nd. Tough compact sand for 24 feet. 3rd. Very close sand, with veins of «asperon,» for 2 feet. 4th. Liquid slimy soil for 3 feet. 5th. Dark-blue ochre, easily dissolved, for 9 feet. 6th. Tosca with calcareous spots, for 8 feet. 7th. Very yellow fluid sand for 5 feet. 8th. Fluid grey sand, with small bits of quartz, and a spring of water, 33 feet. 9th. Fluid sand for 56 feet. 10th. Consistent loam, marine shells, calcareous fragments and crusts of asperon for 56 feet. 11th. Argillaceous sand for 8 feet. 12th. Very hard calcareous layer for 12 feet, after which the water rushed up through the tube to a height of 15 feet above the ground, and this was the completion of the works, after boring 234 feet. The failure of the well to absorb the blood of the *saladeros* was said to be owing to the thin texture of the fluid lands.

It is proposed to remove the *saladeros* to Ensenada, ten leagues further south, where a good port can be made at little trouble or expense, and Mr. Wheelwright's railway will connect the place with Buenos Ayres.

CHAP. IX.

EXCURSIONS BY RAILWAY.

THE NORTHERN—TO THE TIGRE.

The prettiest scenery around Buenos Ayres is found in this route: the distance is about twenty-four miles. The line was begun in 1862 by Messrs. Croskey and Murray, of London, the Government giving a guarantee of 7 per cent. on an outlay of £150,000. It was opened to San Fernando in February 1864 (see page 106 of Section A). The official returns for 1866 and 1867 are as follows:—

	1866	1867
Number of passengers,	267,792	329,793
Gross receipts,	4,361,979	3,516,347
Working expenses,	1,057,516	466,868
Guarantee paid by Government,		

This line has not resulted favorably, owing to its inferior construction, which has called for constant repairs, making the working expenses exceed 80 per cent. of the gross receipts. It will be seen, nevertheless, that the deficit to be made good by Government was much less in 1867 than in the previous year.

There is a tramway from the Custom-house to the Retiro terminus, a mile in length, the cars running along the Paseo Julio, past the Gas-house, The Retiro terminus is at the foot of the hill on which the city barrack stands. The first section of the line is much exposed to inundations, although partly protected from the river by a plantation of willows, among which you will see numbers of black women washing clothes. On the left we have a pleasant view of the quintas built along the «barranca.» Mme. Frebourg has a French boarding-school, after which comes Riglos's quinta, where General Whitelocke signed the capitulation of his army, in 1807; it is now the property of Señor Estrada, whose splendid two-story mansion is the next object. Below the quinta of Dr. Lorenzo Torres is the new Steam-laundry, close to which is the tavern of Povero Diavolo. Klappenbach's quinta is now cut up, and yonder was the former residence of Consul Parish, commanding a delightful view of the river. So does Whitfield's quinta, by turns the residence of the British or French Minister, and nearer to the Recoleta is Mr. Armstrong's country-house. The line here passes through the dismantled fortifications of one of the outworks thrown up in 1861 to defend the city from General Urquiza's threatened siege. This is a very exposed point, and the railway works have been repeatedly damaged by inundations. The water-supply for the city is taken from here; the works and embankments just completed are on the left of the line. The Recoleta cemetery and Poor Asylum crown the «barranca.» The quintas of Mr. Samuel B. Hale, an old American merchant of high standing, and of ex-Governor Saavedra, come next. In south-easterly gales it is common to see vessels driven ashore here. The Rifleros is a tavern near Palermo Chico, and there are some farm-yards here for rearing poultry for the principal city hotels. We now enter the ruined park of Palermo, the palace of Rosas lying to the left. The station is situate in what was once the grand avenue, and on our right is visible the stand-house of the English cricket-club: the cricket-ground is about four acres, rented from the municipality of Belgrano, and here the Athletic Sports also take place. Passing the new Powder-mill we cross the Arroyo Maldonado: about half a mile on the left we see the handsome Maldonado quinta, near which Rosas commenced a great bridge over the arroyo, but it has been left unfinished. The line now crosses a tract of swampy land, till approaching the «barrancas» of Belgrano. A number of pretty quintas run along the hill, ending with a very ancient tile-roof house belonging to Dr. Corvalan.

The chapel of Belgrano has a charming effect, looking over the line of railway, the lowlands, and the river. On one side of the station is the

Italian villa of Señor Matti, the steamboat proprietor; on the other is Watson's hotel. In the summer season Belgrano is crowded with visitors but in winter it is all but deserted: the place is famous for its race-course (see page 86 of Section B). After traversing an open plain we cross the Arroyo Medrano, by an iron bridge, and enter the fine demesne of Mr. James White, a Scotch gentleman, who, coming to Buenos Ayres forty years ago, began life at the foot of the ladder, like so many other prosperous men in the country. This demesne formerly belonged to the family of the late bishop, Medrano, and is one of the oldest places in the neighborhood: the house is nicely situated, with shady corridors, large apartments, and extensive offices; there is a court-yard resembling a barrack, where the slaves were lodged; the pigeon house contains some thousands of birds. Mr. White has devoted his chief attention to the rearing of superior English-bred horses, cows, &c.: his famous racer Belgrano has carried off numberless honors, and his half-breds are much in request both as saddle and carriage horses. He has expended large sums in bringing out superior animals from England. The farmyard is admirable; the grounds are tastefully laid out. There is a gigantic ombú tree, in the trunk of which one of Mr. White's cow herds has lived for some years past. Mr. White possesses a large wheat farm at Chivilcoy. The next quinta is that of the family of the late Mr. Patrick M'Lean, and here there is a station, called Rivadavia. The line traverses a low ground, skirting the base of a series of delightful summer residences, belonging to the wealthy families of Barros Pazos, Elia, Laprida, Uriarte, and Cano: some of these are built in the best style, with ornamental terraces and gardens in front, and looking out over the broad bosom of La Plata. For fantastic effect nothing can surpass the Azcuenaga quinta, built in the form of a hexagon, with a multitude of windows: it is related of a Gaucho that, on being asked how he liked the place, he said—"It was a nice place enough for a man to sleep outside of." Mr. Azcuenaga is an old bachelor, and was once president of the Municipality of Buenos Ayres.

Point Olivos, the property of Mr. Wineberg, is the best situation along the river, and here the town of Belgrano should have been built. The barranca comes close to the water's edge, which offers a very suitable bathing place, and the point juts out into the river, with a fine view of Buenos Ayres southward, and San Fernando and the islands northward. Mr. Wineberg, who is a native of Poland, after making some money as a dentist in Brazil and Buenos Ayres, purchased the site, which extends back as far as the San Isidro highroad, and projected the formation of a town to be called «Pueblo Mitre,» but he asked too much for building lots, and his

house has stood here in solitude for some years, surrounded by a vineyard and flower garden. Looking from the railway carriage over the river the traveller obtains a panoramic view in which the thousand ships in the roadstead of Buenos Ayres form an interesting feature. The line now enters a slight cutting, and we are surrounded by the rich corn fields of San Isidro, interspersed with the quintas of Pellon, Uriarte, Pacheco, Martinez, and Escalada. We cross the famous Callejon d'Ybañez, a green lane leading from the highroad to the river, which was the abode of a gang of brigands thirty years ago: numberless robberies and murders were committed here, and passengers dreaded to pass the place even in the noon day. A deserted «pulperia,» where the robbers held their rendezvous, is still seen on the roadside, but has long been uninhabited. There are some handsome quintas on the barranca, right of the line, before reaching San Isidro, viz.: those of Aguirre, Anchorena, and Vernet: the second was built by Mr. Patrick Brown, an old Irish resident; it had nice grounds, summer houses on the cliffs, and an excellent fruit garden. Vernet's is equally beautiful, commanding a boundless view of the river.

San Isidro is a charming summer residence, about 14 miles from the city: waving fields of corn far as the eye can reach, green lanes that remind you of some midland counties in England, and lovely quintas with Grecian colonnades, Moorish corridors, and rich vegetation all around, make up a picture unrivalled on this side of the River Plate. The quintas of Alvear, Mackinlay, Elortondo, Tomkinson, and Ybañez are remarkable for their picturesque situation and luxurious style. The town looks ancient, and most of the village forefathers sleep in the churchyard at the entrance to the chapel of St. Isidore the Laborer. The legend of the foundation of San Isidro is thus told—On a summer afternoon in the month of February 1725, a Gaucho halted his horse here under the shade of an ombú, to take siesta, and, struck with the beauty of the situation, made a vow to St. Isidore, his patron saint, that if ever he came to be a rich man he would build a chapel here. He became in time a wealthy estanciero, and kept his word. The present church is, however, of a more modern date. There is a pretty good inn, kept by Señor Tiscornia. The public school is newly built, spacious, and well-ventilated. From the plaza to the river side there is a shady thicket, which is a favorite place for English pic-nics in the fine weather. New country houses are being every day built in the neighborhood, and one of the finest is that belonging to an Italian gentleman, close to the railway station. General Mitre, during his term of office, sought relief from the cares of state in a quinta on the river's side, where he passed the summer months with his family.

Leaving San Isidro, the railway strikes inland and we only get a distant view of the quintas along the «barranca.» The most notable is the Punta Chica, Mr. Brittain's delightful cottage: this is fitted up with the utmost taste and luxury; the gardens are extensive and well stored with all kinds of fruit; from the extreme point over the river can be seen the island of Martin Garcia and the delta of the Paraná. There is a ruin on the «barranca» from the time of the early Spaniards.

Corn-fields again intervene till we reach San Fernando (alias Bella Vista, from the beauty of its position). The view inland now reveals the first glimpses of the wide and open camp, with sheep grazing in the distance. The town is at some distance from the river; it is very irregularly built, but has a considerable population, and promises to become a place of great importance, if Mr. Hopkins succeed in his project of making the Capitan arroyo the port of Buenos Ayres. There are two very good hotels: the National, kept by M. Manet, has good wines and accommodation; the other is called Hotel de France, in the Plaza. A new church is in course of construction. There are many fine quintas in the neighbourhood. San Fernando owes its existence to an inundation which occurred at Las Conchas in 1806, when the parish-priest removed the sanctuary to this high ground, and the Viceroy Sobre-monte turned the first sod of San Fernando in great solemnity, only a few months before his flight from Buenos Ayres, on the English invasion, when he embarked from this same place.

The Northern Railway was at first intended to stop at San Fernando, and the Government guarantee went no further, but the Company afterwards resolved to prolong it at their own risk to the Tigre, which offered a convenient port for the river steamboats. The Tigre is at all times sheltered from rough weather, and while it is often difficult to embark in the roadstead of Buenos Ayres the up-river passenger traffic sustains no interruption at the Tigre.

From San Fernando there is a continual descent towards the swamps of the Tigre and Las Conchas. A few houses and ranchos scattered here and there, a school-house built on arches, a quinta belonging to Mr. Arning, and some clumps of trees, are met with before reaching the Tigre, which is nearly three miles from San Fernando, and 24 from the city. The rails run right down to the river, and passengers can at once step on board the steamers. Beyond the Tigre we see several splendid country-houses; those of Gonsalez Moreno, Tejedor, Garrigos, and Madero; the last resembles a chapel, and cost a large sum of money. At the railway station there is an excellent restaurant kept by M. Champion. Since the

steamers visit the Tigre a number of shops and stores have sprung up. The Captain of the Port has a wooden house built on piles. The English rowing-club have a boat-house in which they keep their «outriggers,» an exceedingly light craft of which you will often see, on Sundays, a dozen skimming over the waters of the Lujan, Tigre, and numberless channels of the Paraná islands. These islands were uninhabited a few years ago, and Señor Sarmiento (now President of the Republic) was one of the first to appreciate their beauty and fertility: his island, in the Reculadas stream, is a garden teeming with fruit and vegetables, some of the trees planted by his own hand. Not far off is another island cultivated by Senator Piñero; but the finest of all is that of M. Brunet, a Frenchman, who has invested £16,000 sterling in the venture, living himself on the island, and raising the finest potatoes for the city market. The traveller will pass a pleasant day among these islands, where Nature bestows a luxuriant vegetation, and every stream is bordered with willows that droop their branches to the water's edge, and the quince trees laden with fruit of enormous size. The islanders are mostly Italians or French, some of them gardeners, others charcoal burners, others basket-makers; they have their huts built on poles, to guard against the frequent inundations. The usual charge for boats at the Tigre is \$30 an hour. There are six trains to and from town daily, making the run in about an hour and 20 minutes.

THE BOCA AND ENSENADA RAILWAY.

The first concession for this line was granted in favor of M. Lelievre, but the works were not commenced till Mr. Wheelwright took the concession in hand in 1863, the first sod being turned on Washington's birthday (23rd February) of that year. In July following the National Government made a new concession in favor of Mr. Wheelwright (see page 106 of Section A), with a right of monopoly for twenty years, but without any guarantee for interest. The line was opened to Barracas, four miles, on September 18, 1865, and a branch was shortly afterwards run down to the Boca. It is proposed to prolong this railway to Ensenada, thirty miles further south, but the works are suspended for a time owing to a difficulty about the exact point where the line is to cross the Riachuelo.

This line has been very successful: in 1867 it carried 459,698 passengers; producing \$63,690 s., of which the working expenses absorbed 60 per cent. The nett proceeds gave $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., on a capital of £80,000 sterling.

The temporary terminus is at the foot of Calle Venezuela, below Santo Domingo church, but there is in course of erection a splendid iron girder viaduct, made in England, which will start from the Custom-house and run along the beach to the Yellow House, a distance of more than a mile. This will be one of the finest works of railway engineering in the Continent: the cost of it being £50,000, including the terminus at the Custom-house; it runs at a height of several feet above the highest Santa Rosa flood. At various times the line suffered much injury and interruption from these periodical floods; but now this inconvenience will be obviated. The viaduct will be completed in the beginning of 1870; the weight of the structure is estimated at 1,000 tons.

The line runs along the beach called Paseo Colon, where a kind of breakwater is formed by a thick plantation of weeping willows. The barranca on the right is high and steep: we pass under the city hospital, Fair's quinta (for many years the British Legation), and Lezama's quinta: this last is the finest in Buenos Ayres, covering fifteen acres of ground, laid out in the best Italian style, with parterres, hot houses, statuary, bowers, and ornamental plantations: the house is also commodious and elegant, with rich drawing-rooms, dining hall, chapel, and a mirador 60 feet high: visitors can obtain tickets for admission to the gardens, which command the best view in the city. General Urquiza resided here for a short time in 1860. The site was occupied forty years ago by Mr. Mackinlay's quinta.

The first station is the Yellow House; here the line crosses the highroad to the Boca, and enters Jackson's fields. On the right are seen Waterloo quinta, the British Hospital, and the barranca which extends to the Calle Buen Orden: this would be an admirable place for a good row of houses built in English style, as the position is high and airy. The fields traversed by the line are often partly under water, the vicinity of the Boca being almost below water level. The view on the right is very pretty; the quintas of North Barracas peeping out here and there in the midst of a dark green foliage. On the left we see the wooden village of the Boca, from which rises the din of ship carpenters busy at work, for this is the great dockyard of the River Plate. A forest of masts indicates the great coasting trade also done here.

At the junction of the Boca branch with the main line are the company's workshops and sheds for rolling stock, besides a turning table: the train halts here. There is a great curve on the Boca branch, which winds its way through the shanties and dock yards of the Italian ship-wrights. You will see them building schooners on all sides for the coasting and up river traffic. The line runs down close to the Riachuelo, where there is a

wooden station: the passengers are almost exclusively Genoese. Here were landed some of the locomotives brought out from England for the Central Argentine Railway, but the goods traffic by this way is inconsiderable, owing to the difficulty of bringing lighters up the Riachuelo, and the necessity of carting goods at the Venezuela Station till the viaduct be made to the Custom-house.

The trains for Barracas have to run down to the Boca, and then return to the main line, which goes straight towards the Barraca de Peña, on the banks of the Riachuelo. We pass Younger's steam factory for washing sheepskins, and the barracas of Temperley and Bunge. The train halts at Peña's barraca, to let down or pick up wool brokers or barraqueros: this barraca is one of the finest, and does a great business.

The line now hugs the river side, passing in front of several barracas, where the peons are at work loading or discharging produce from schooners and lighters, which are moored under the willows. At times the banks are strewn with fish, poisoned by the saladero liquids, and then the smell is insupportable. On the opposite bank are the saladeros. The Riachuelo here is about 150 feet wide, the water of a dirty red color, and the bottom is such a deposit of mud that sometimes when a man falls into the water he never rises to the surface.

Passing the extensive barraca of Hughes & Peters we reach the Cinco Esquinas, situate at the end of the Calle Larga. The stranger should visit the Club, and Marshall's dockyard. From here the line pursues its course by the former site of Brown's saladero, and then on to the Barracas Bridge, the present terminus.

The trains run from town every hour, and return from Barracas at the half hours, making the journey either way in twenty-five minutes. The average number of passengers is 1,400 daily.

When the line shall be prolonged towards Ensenada it will cross the Riachuelo near the site of the old passenger bridge, pass through the wide main street that leads to the Crucecita, leaving Barracas church on the right, and crossing the arroyo at the Puente Chico. It will then touch at Quilmes, which will become a favorite suburb when once connected with town. There are many nice quintas here, and the farm and plantations of Mr. John Clark cover a great extent. Leaving the cabañas of Latham and Benavente on the right, the line will traverse the estancias of Mrs. Yates and Don Leonardo Pereyra, then following the route of the telegraph wires over a tract of swampy country, and crossing Mr. Bell's Estancia Chica, it will terminate at Ensenada, where Mr. Wheelwright projects to form the port of Buenos Ayres, as it was under the early Spaniards till the mouth

became impeded with sand. The distance from Buenos Ayres to Ensenada is thirty-three miles.

THE WESTERN—TO CHIVILCOY.

This was the first railway constructed in the River Plate; it was got up entirely by local capitalists, the contractor being Mr. Bragg; the first sod was turned at the Plaza Parque, in presence of the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, on the feast of Santa Rosa (August 30th) 1857. It was opened to Flores, 6 miles, in the following year; to Moron, in 1859; and to Moreno, 25 miles, in 1861. The enterprise proved unsatisfactory to the shareholders, and after some dissension the line was purchased by the Government of Buenos Ayres for \$20,000,000m^c (£160,000) with the view of prolonging it to the western districts. The Provincial Bank was authorized by the Legislature to advance 44,000,000 for the prolongation to Mercedes, 37 miles beyond Moreno, and subsequently 15,000,000 for the section to Chivilcoy, in all 100 miles from town: the total cost has been 82,500,000 (including a sum produced by sale of public lands) or about £660,000 sterling, equal to £6,600 a mile. The line was inaugurated for traffic to Chivilcoy on September 17th, 1866, on which occasion the Government struck a medal with the inscription «Western railway to Chivilcoy, 100 miles, constructed entirely by native resources.» The line traverses the best sheepfarming districts in the country, and does a great business in goods and passengers. The official returns for 1866 and 1867 are as follows:—

	1866.	1867.
Number of passengers,	368,651	472,627
Gross receipts, goods & passengers,	12,685,499	16,184,656
Working expenses,	57 p. cent.	65 p. cent.
Nett profit on capital,	9½	7½

The decrease of profits in the latter year was owing to a reduction of 25 per cent in the fares, which are cheaper than on any other line. The amount remaining due to the Bank, on April 30th 1868, was \$59,000,000m^c. The construction of telegraph wires to Chivilcoy cost £6,200, equal to £62 per mile. The line is on Barlow rails from town to Mercedes, and Griffin's rails from Mercedes to Chivilcoy: at special places there are Krupp's or Greaves's steel rails, also Vignoles and double-headed rails. The terminus has been recently supplied with a powerful fire-engine worked by steam power, with a hose some hundreds of yards in length.

The Parque station is in the Plaza of that name; the new station now building will cover 1800 square yards; the line crosses the Plaza diagonally, passing in front of the artillery magazine; there is a sharp curve into the Calle Parque, and here they have employed steel rails. Although the Calle Parque is only 40 feet wide and thickly inhabited, no accidents occur here; in fact Buenos Ayres is so fortunate in this respect, that our railway mortality does not amount to one person yearly. Leaving the new Jesuit college at Calle Callao on our right, the line makes another bend, into Calle Corrientes, down which there is a steady decline till we reach the great workshops of the railway. These were completed in 1868 and comprise a first-class establishment for all kinds of railway works: the various shops of carpenters, blacksmiths, turners, coach-builders, painters, &c. are well worth a visit. Further on the spacious goods' stores offer an animated picture in the wool season, and have accommodation for a large portion of produce of the northern and western sheepfarms: the roof is of corrugated iron, supported by metal pillars. Passing the «mill of the West» we get a view of the Once de Setiembre wool-market; this is crowded in the busy season with the «carretas» or camp waggons, which may be said to navigate the Pampas in all directions. This is the first station on the line.

From Once de Setiembre the line strikes out due west through a series of quintas well stocked with fruit-trees. On the left is the Miserere, a very ancient place associated with General Whitelock's attack on Buenos Ayres. A branch line runs off here towards Barracas, which was made with the intention of carrying produce to the Riachuelo, but this was afterwards abandoned: it is now used for carrying off the city ordure, which is burnt in an adjacent field. Before reaching Almagro station we pass the quintas of Bletcher and Gomez on the right, and Billingham on the left. The station adjoins the grounds of Don Julian Almagro, and is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the city. At a short distance on the right are the suburban residences of Mr. Lumb, Dr. Velez Sarsfield, and the Jesuit fathers. There are now two highroads parallel with the line, the Gauna road on the right and the Flores road on the left. The latter is lined with quintas belonging to Carreras, Valenzuela, Ceballos, Achaval, Amespil, Tarragona, Cruz, and Labrue. On the Gauna road is a saladero for killing pigs. The meadows about here give abundant hay crops. On a slight eminence to the right is Rose-hill, the delightful residence of a leading shipbroker, Mr. Boyd: the house is in Grecian style, with principal front looking eastward, a row of Australian gum trees forming the avenue from the highroad; the gardens are exceedingly tasteful. On the left is Guerrico's

quinta, with a fine grapery leading down to the line of railway. The quintas of Valle, Luna, Dr. Pardo, and others follow. Dorrego's, on the left, has numerous bowers and statues; on the right is the quinta of Don Norberto Riestra.

Flores is a pleasant little place in the summer time. Observe the quinta of Señor Del Pont, fronting the station, and three or four others, almost as pretty, hard by. The church and public school are on the left. The village contains about 1,000 inhabitants (see page 88 of Section B). To the right the view stretches away towards the Pampa; on the left we pass the Olivera and Letamendi quintas, and approaching Floresta is that of Señor Ximenez, an estanciero of Corrientes, who essayed cotton planting in 1863, on the river Batel. On the right is a strange looking wooden structure, built for a hotel when this was the terminus of the line; and now we pass through a number of chacras under grain, till reaching the station of San Martin. The village of this name lies to the right, not far from the battlefield of Monte Caseros, where Rosas was overthrown in 1852. The branch railway from Floresta to the Luxan river will take this route. Near the San Martin station is a nursery belonging to Don Eduardo Madero, under the care of a French gardener: after which we see the charming country-houses of Don Juan Madero and the brothers Exequiel and Matias Ramos Mejia. To the left is the river of Matanzas, so called from a dreadful slaughter (*matanza*) of Indians made here by the founder of Buenos Ayres, Don Juan de Garay, for which the King of Spain gave him a grant of three square leagues of land on the northern bank of the river: this grant is at present in the hands of the Ramos-Mejia family. Crossing the lands of Segurola, Mendez, and Rubio, we leave on the left the village of San Justo, and next traverse the properties of Villegas, Peña and Puyrredon. The highroad to the northern camps strikes off on the right towards the Puente de Marquez, a place associated with some bloody battles in the civil wars.

Before reaching Moron our notice is attracted by a pretty American farmhouse, called Ohio Park, the country-seat of Mr. Coffin; the house is of two stories with pointed gables, and surrounded by gardens and meadows. Moron is situate on a high ground and considered a healthy summer residence; it has some fine houses, a parish church, public promenade, theatre, hotel, and about forty dry goods and grocers' stores. Horses or carriages may be hired here to make excursions to any of the neighboring estancias. In summer time there is a Club which gives balls on Sunday evenings, and these are attended by the townfolk and many ladies and gentlemen from the city. We now get a view of the campagna stretching away on all sides to the horizon, save where the prospect is relieved by an

estancia-house surrounded by a «monte» or peach plantation. On the right are those of Gonsalez and Pellon, and the left Pearson and Dillon; the last named is Justice of the Peace for Merlo, and descended of a respectable Irish family that was banished in the rebellion of 1798. The village of Merlo is a straggling place, with a scanty population and a little Gothic church: the public-school is half-way between the station and the village, and near it is an English-built house, formerly belonging to Mr. Boyd. Many of the houses are in ruins, and the doors still painted red, a souvenir of the time of Rosas. The finest estancia in the neighbourhood is that of Mr. Thomas Gahan, a wealthy Irish sheepfarmer. Señor Carranza has also a well cultivated chacra. The branch railway to Lobos will start from near Merlo. We now cross the river Las Conchas: on the left is Castagno's flour mill, and adjacent are meadow farms belonging to some industrious Frenchmen. Alcorta's «cabaña» of fine sheep is on the left, with a tasteful house and plantations, and further west is the valuable estancia of Mr. Wyatt Smith, a favorite visiting place for strangers who wish to have an insight of camp-life.

Moreno is distant 25 miles from the city, and was a place of some importance before the prolongation of the line; it has a population of a few hundred souls, with a hotel, a dozen shops, a large plaza, and a church: at the western corner of the Plaza is a curious unfinished structure, with a «mirador» three stories high; this was the work of a Frenchman who was employed to build the church, and who died before finishing either the church or his house. Horses may be hired at the hotel Labastie. The only cutting on the line is after leaving Moreno, and even this is insignificant: probably there never was a railroad easier constructed than this, the work simply being to lay down the rails on the turf, which is so level that Mr. Allen assures us the incline sometimes in ten miles does not exceed that number of inches. We are now fairly launched on the broad bosom of the Pampa, and if you wish to feast your eyes on the glorious expanse that has no limit for a thousand miles, you should ask permission to accompany the engine-driver, who hurries along at 30 miles an hour, speeding onward towards the Indian territory, with the motto of his locomotive «I'm off to Chile!» There is a peculiar sense of buoyancy and freedom in careering over these boundless prairies, and the eye of the political economist is cheered by the signs of thriving pastoral industry on all sides. Most of the sheepfarmers are Irishmen, some of them owners of large tracts of land and numerous flocks of sheep; others are poor «puesteros» following their flocks on horseback, while the children run out from the mud rancho to gaze at the train as it passes. The humblest hut of an Irishman is

distinguishable from those of natives, by its having a chimney and a ladder, the latter being used as a look-out for the sheep. On the right is Robert Kelly's estancia, after which we cross the Arroyo Sauce and a «cañada» or hollow, called Bajo-hondo. To the left are the estancias of Edward Dillon and Owen Lynch: the latter made his money in the city at his trade of saddler. The Alvares estancia covers a large area, and we cross the arroyos Durazno and La Choza, the latter of which rises some leagues higher up, in the estancia of Mr. Patrick Maguire. The Rodriguez station is on the site of an intended town, which at present counts seven houses: it was marked out by Governor Saavedra, who directed that the church when built should be dedicated to St. Patrick, as most of the neighbors are from the green isle of Erin. Crossing the «cañada» of San Antonio we skirt the Irigoyen estancia; the house has a chapel and large chacra attached. The confluence of La Choza and Arias arroyos is near another large Irish settlement, comprising the rich estancias of Peter Ham, John Brown, Kelly, Casey, and others, after which we get sight of the Villa de Luxan.

Luxan is one of the prettiest and most interesting towns in the camp, and distant forty-three miles from the city. It derives its name from a Spanish officer killed in an encounter with the Indians on the bank of the river that flows by here. The church of Luxan has long been a pilgrimage for people from all parts of South America, and the shrine of the Virgin is richly decorated with votive offerings. The Cabildo stands in the plaza, around which are several good shops. There is an Irish priest resident here. The public schools are worthy of a visit. An omnibus plies between the station and the town, and if the traveller wish to see some of the Irish estancias he will find horses for hire. On Sunday mornings the town is crowded with Irishmen coming in to Mass, and one or other of the richer estancieros will always invite a respectable stranger to dine with him at his estancia. From Luxan the line runs almost parallel with the Luxan river, but in opposite directions, nearly the whole way to Mercedes. Crossing a small arroyo we pass the estancias of Romero, Gutierrez, Maxwell, Burke, and Real on the left, and Gonzalez, Navarro, and Achaval on the right. We now enter on the large Olivera estancia, where there is a midway station between Luxan and Mercedes. The estancia Ruiz intervenes before passing the Arroyo Balta, which is spanned by an iron bridge sixty feet long, after which we leave the estancias of Vivar, Garaghan, and Connor on the left, and those of Dr. and Nicolas Lowe on the right.

Mercedes is visible at a considerable distance, or at least the chacras and quintas which surround it, for nothing of the town itself can be seen till

we have travelled a couple of miles through shady peach orchards. The railway station is superb, and has an excellent «buffet.» The city, for such is its official title, is a mile distant, and omnibuses meet every train. The church and new town hall are handsome buildings, and there are about 5,000 inhabitants: an Irish priest resides here. The best shop is that of Messrs. Torroba Brothers, where strangers will find any information they may require. There are two good inns, and horses or carriages may be hired for excursions. This town, like Luxan, is a great centre of Irish sheepfarmers, who possess several valuable estancias in the partido. It is distant sixty miles from Buenos Ayres, and the trip is made in three hours and a-half. The Luxan river flows N.W. of the town. As we leave Mercedes, the cemetery is on our left, and we again traverse a number of quintas, crossing the Luxan river below the Frias estancia, beyond which we see a large flour mill. On the left we pass a wooden cross in the centre of a fenced field: this marks the scene of a dreadful battle with the Indians some forty years ago, in which the savages were victorious, and here are interred the unfortunate frontier troops who were cut to pieces. On the right we see the electric telegraph wires that start hence for Rosario, passing through San Nicolas and some intermediate villages. The river Luxan still runs parallel, and on the right are the estancias of Barrancos and Unzué, on the left Sanchez and Aranguren. A little further we find some more wealthy Irish farmers; Michael Murray, John Dillon, and Edward Martin: the camps about here begin to descend. On the right is the confluence of three arroyos, named Cardo, Durazno, and Leones; beyond these are several lagoons and a little eminence called Cerrillo de Leones. A few years ago this was Indian territory, and as yet there are few peach mounts or plantations. The solitary ombú stands out, at intervals, in bold relief on the horizon: this tree is worthless even for firewood, the timber being exactly like a rotten cabbage-stalk, but it is most valuable as a landmark in the Pampas, and the coolness of its shade is exceedingly grateful to the wearied traveller. Travelling across these plains bears some resemblance to a journey in Egypt: when the plain is at all dusty and the sun shines brightly, a perfect «mirage» is created. You fancy you see a lake or river, and the reflection of trees in the water: the picture recedes from you as you advance, the lake never had existence; and the tree is only a shrub a few inches high. Another effect of the mirage is to confuse distances: two houses are in sight, and you make for the nearest, but you find it double the distance of the other. The size of objects is also strangely magnified, and a small whitewashed cottage appears a large and stately mansion. It often happens at day break

that an estancia becomes distinctly visible to the naked eye, although so much beyond the horizon as not to be properly visible even through a telescope. Yonder flock of sheep, by another optical delusion, exactly resembles a long stone wall. In spring these plains are covered with thistles 10 feet high, so thick that a horseman cannot make his way through them. Sometimes there are dreadful camp fires, accidentally caused by throwing the remains of a lighted cigar among the thistles. Messrs. Van de Velde of Buenos Ayres, and others, have invented machines for mowing down these thistles.

The estancias of Laurence Kelly, Mrs. Kenny, and James Maguire are seen on the left, before reaching Freyre. This station is close to the estancia-house of an old Spanish family of the same name: old Señor Freyre died last year, very wealthy, and his death-sickness was said to be caused by vexation at having 200 sheep killed by the train. It is found expedient not to fence the railways in this country, but rather leave the sides open, for cattle to scamper off on either side when the train approaches. When a cow or sheep, however, is run over, the iron fender in front of the locomotive quietly throws the dead animal off. At Freyre station there is a sagacious mule employed in turning the wheel of the water-tank, and whenever he hears the approach of the train he goes to work of his own accord. As we traverse the Barrancos estancia the line steadily declines towards Las Saladas, a stream or rather swamp, which has its origin in the Encadenadas lakes some distance to the north, near the estancias of Thomas Carney and Michael Allen. In wet seasons this swamp is very much flooded, and the first railway bridge put across the Saladas was partly carried away: this caused Mr. Allen, the engineer, to invent two supplementary bridges instead of earthworks, which he constructed of two railway bars placed one on the other, leaving free passage beneath for the flood. The total bridge now measures 150 feet across. Ten leagues lower down, to the left, Las Saladas falls into the River Salado, not far from the fine estancia of Mr. John Smith, the well-known broker. We now enter the great estancia of Dr. Gorostiaga, Finance Minister; it comprises nine square leagues of land, forming four distinct establishments, viz., San José, San Bernardo, San Patricio, and Santa Trinidad, each of which has a lagoon of the same name, an estancia house and plantation, and a quantity of farming stock: the chief estancia house is far on the right, with a large peach-mount; the stock of the Gorostiaga estancia numbers 10,000 cows and 60,000 sheep. The station at this point is midway between Freyre and Chivilcoy. The land is still low, and as we pass Cerrito Averías we get a view of the «chacras» and plantations of the town of Chivilcoy.

Chivilcoy, the temporary terminus of the Western line, is 100 miles from Buenos Ayres, and is the great agricultural district of the province: it had long been the dream of Don Domingo Sarmiento, now President of the Republic, and, in the 14 years since its foundation, the progress of the place has been rapid and prosperous. Abundant crops of grain and potatoes are raised here, but previous to the railway reaching Chivilcoy (September 1866) the farmers had no market for their Indian-corn and were obliged to burn it for fuel in making bricks. The «chacras» cover a great extent of ground, and are famous for excellent peaches. The streets are wide, and many houses are of two stories. There is a first-rate club and reading-room; also a handsome school-house. The plaza is 200 yards on each side. At Messrs. Torroba, *Standard* agents, the stranger can procure any necessary information. The train takes $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours to make the journey from town: there are two trains daily each way.

The line is being prolonged to Bragado, 25 miles further west, for which purpose the Legislature of Buenos Ayres recently voted an emission of 6 per cent. bonds. The route will traverse the «chacras» of Chivilcoy, cross the Arroyo Hinojo and San Antonio, then through Mr. White's large wheat farm down to the Rio Salado. This river is crossed in 35 degrees S. lat., and just 2 degrees of longitude W. of Buenos Ayres. The estancias of the Cranwell family and of Biais intervene before reaching the lagoons of Bragado-grande and Cassio. Then there is a «loma» or gentle rise, and on the far side lies the frontier town of Bragado, near the Saladillo lagoon.

THE SOUTHERN—TO CHASCOMUS.

The first sod was turned on March 8th, 1864, by President Mitre, and the line was completed to Chascomus in December 1865, the distance being $72\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the cost £725,000. The contractors, Messrs. Peto & Betts, adopted the Barlow rail, and the construction of the road, the rolling-stock, &c. are highly creditable. The line may be considered very successful, from the following official returns:

	1866: and prob. to Dec. 31, 1867.	
Number of passengers,	210,878	.... 407,410
Gross receipts,	7,790,231	.... 10,447,873
Working expenses,	63½ p. cent.	.... 58½ p. cent.
Goods traffic (arrobas),	1,293,799	.... 2,117,794
Deficit paid by Government,	3,778,667	.... 1,696,722

Thus it will be seen that the working expenses diminished, while the nett proceeds increased, from 2½ in 1866 to over 5 per cent in 1867. The prolongation to Dolores is indefinitely postponed.

There is a tramway connecting the Plaza Constitucion terminus with the city; at present it stops in Calle Lima, but it will be prolonged to the Custom-house. The terminus has every accommodation for passengers and goods, the sheds affording ample storage for wool. The line leaves the Convalecencia on the right, and Langdon's and Saenz-Valiente's quintas on the left, after which there is a rapid decline towards Barracas, while the view takes in a varied landscape of country-houses and gardens, with the Boca in the distance. The station of North Barracas is close to Pereyra's saladero, in the midst of a little colony of industrious Basques. The Riachuelo is crossed by a great iron girder bridge, supported by six cylinders, and having a span of 52 yards: the cylinders are sunk 60 feet, and the bed of the stream is so slimy that some of them stand in 32 feet of mud; each cylinder was tested with a weight of 125 tons of rails: the bridge was made in England by Messrs. Bridgeworth, and is a noble work. On the south bank of the Riachuelo are the Company's workshops; that for repairing locomotives and doing other iron works has room for a dozen large forges, with flues of massive brickwork; the shed for mending carriages is equally spacious, and has a turning-table; then follow two large depots, for carriages and engines. The station of South Barracas is at some distance from the village: we see the church towers on the left, as we traverse a region of kitchen-gardens to Lanuz station, and then speed away towards the picturesque thickets of

Lomas de Zamorra: there are several pretty quintas in the neighbourhood of the Lomas, and among the contributors to the village church were Messrs. Peto & Betts and some other Protestant friends. It would be difficult to find in the environs of Buenos Ayres a more delightful place for country-houses than hereabout. The air is peculiarly fresh and invigorating the ground high and dry, the plantations affording agreeable shade, and forming green lanes lined with poplars. Mr. Temperley's quinta is the most charming that can be imagined, being finished in the best English style, with handsome grounds, through which the railway runs. This property acquired great value by the line, and Mr. Temperley sold a part of his «chacra» in building lots for country-houses. Messrs. Green, Drabble, Grigg, and others, have lands near the line. The Lomas station is exceedingly neat: it may be mentioned here that the stations on the line cost the sum of £64,000. Mr. Temperley's house is a little way beyond the station, on the right, and opposite to it is Mr. Livingstone's

«rus-in-urbe» with a neat summer house. Emerging from the woods of Zamorra we get a view of the open camp, the eye taking in on the right a faint glimpse of the far-famed Santa Catalina, and on the left the shrubbery of Mrs. Kidd's rustic hotel. Santa Catalina was the site of Robertson's Scotch colony, 1826, and has the finest plantations in Buenos Ayres. Mr. Fair projected a branch-line from the Lomas to his estancia of Monte Grande, via Santa Catalina, but it has not much prospect of being realized. Next we come on the grounds of Don Roque Correa covered with peach and paradise trees, and then on the Hunt property, after which there are some large grain «chacras,» belonging to Bell, Boyd, and others, including an industrious native farmer.

Excellent fresh butter is sent into town from the next station, which is called Bursaco. There are some fine estancias within easy reach of Bursaco station; those of Robson, Young, Brown, and Boyd; and near the Conchitas river is Santo Domingo, the property of Mr. Davidson. The line of railway is as straight as an arrow.

In a few minutes we reach Mr. Glew's estancia: the farm house is surrounded by a peach mount, and close at hand is the Glew station. Up to this point the country wears a lovely aspect; smiling gardens, thickets of peach trees, and fields full of golden promise; but henceforth the landscape grows dull and uninteresting. Leaving Glew's estancia on the right, and Ojeda's and Gowland's on the left, we begin to enter on what may be called the fens of Buenos Ayres, a low-lying country of lagoons and «bañados.» We are now close to San Vicente, those two ombú trees being only a league from that village.

San Vicente station is reached in two hours from Buenos Ayres, and a diligence plies to the neighboring town. As the line pushes on to Donselaar, we pass the widow Campos's estancia, a snug farm-house, and further on Mrs. Flora Lavalle's; the land about here is very low: we cross the Arroyos Campos and Donselaar by small iron bridges. The estancias of Donselaar and Freers are on the left, and not far off is the splendid German model-farm of Oldendorff & Co.: this is worthy of a visit, being unrivalled in the River Plate; the grain farms, meadow lands, fences, farm yard, and sheds are admirable of their kind, and there is a fine breed of horses from the King of Wurtemberg's stables. President Sarmiento visited this farm lately and complimented Mr. Oldendorff as «the first German in the River Plate.» We next cross the estancia Godoy, and on the right is a large estate belonging to Mr. George Bell. Not far off is the property of a thrifty Scotchman, Mr. MacFarquhar, and then follows that of Señor Udaquiola. On the left is Mr. Temperley's estancia, and then come those of Wilkie and

Faulkes; the latter is a valuable property, which the owner (an old Englishman) fenced in at great expense. To the right of the line lies the estancia of the late Mr. Harratt, who was one of the first settlers that imported fine sheep from Europe, about thirty years ago. The estancia of the late Bryan Thorp is some distance on the right.

Sanborombon is famous for its great iron viaduct, 900 feet long, supported by fifteen solid buttresses of masonry, the bricks for which were made by the Company, near Ferrari station. The whole country hereabout is an impassable swamp in winter, and in summer it is usually dry, and swarming with grasshoppers: as many as a dozen people usually lost their lives every winter in attempting to cross the Sanborombon. This immense «cañada» or valley extends for thirty leagues down to the coast of the River Plate, and in its vicinity there are some fine estancias, including those of Bell, Buchanan, Graham, Plowes, Brown, and Newton. The last named family possesses a great quantity of real estate in the province. There is nothing of interest till we reach Ferrari, and a little beyond this is Jeppener station, so called from a German estanciero who is lord of the soil; an ineffectual attempt was made to establish a town here, but there is a very good English hotel, and numbers of diligences ply hither from all the southern districts. Near Jeppener station is the estancia of Los Galpones, the residence of Mr. Welchman: the Jockey Club holds races here at intervals. A little further we come to the Wild bridge, which was singularly unfortunate during the building of the line; no fewer than three bridges to cross the «arroyo» were lost in the Atlantic, coming out from England, and this is the fourth. Mr. Wild has a comfortable farmhouse on the left: further on is Mr. Cowan's estancia; and now we approach the Altamirano station: a diligence here takes passengers for Ranchos. On the right are the estancias of the Alegre family. Next comes that of Señor Correa.

The Gandara station is on the fine estate of the same name; the late Mr. Gandara was an industrious old Spaniard, and his family still reside here; they have a «graseria» for melting down sheep, close to the station. The estancia extends on either side of the line; the house, surrounded by a large «monte,» is seen about two miles distant on the left. Near the Vitel «laguna» are the Twaites estancias. Passing the lands of Figuerroa we traverse a series of «chacras,» and come in sight of Chascomus. We have now travelled over 70 miles from town, and it will be remarked that we have hardly seen an Irishman along the route. The foreign population is not at all so thick as in the north and west, but there are some English, Scotch, and German establishments of the first order. In the wool season

of 1868 the wools from the south fetched the highest prices, being considered cleaner and better than from any other districts.

Chascomus is a thriving place, situated on the side of a large lake. The railway terminus is a handsome building, and there is a good hotel kept by Mr. Devitt, besides Señor Titon's inn. The church, public schools, plaza, and a quinta built by Mr. Crawford on the edge of the lake, are worthy of mention; besides the well-furnished shops of Auld & Pettygrew, *Standard* agents, and King & Co. There is a resident Scotch clergyman, Rev. Mr. Fergusson. A resident Irish clergyman has also been recently appointed here, the Rev. Mr. Mullady. A telegraph wire connects the town with Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. There are three trains to and from town daily, making the journey in five hours.

The projected prolongation to Dolores, for which the Government also offers a guarantee of 7 per cent., would open up many rich farming districts. The line would cross the estancia of Don Juan N. Fernandez, and pass by several lagoons, then touch at Lacombe's of Chischis; after traversing the estancia of Don Gregorio Lezama, it would cross the Rio Salado at Paso Villar. This is the chief engineering obstacle on the route. The line would next cross the estancias of Alzaga, Alvarez, Botet, Cordoba, Piñero, Madariaga, and Peredo, before reaching Dolores. This town is the great market of the south, and a place of much importance: it is about 50 miles from Chascomus, and diligences ply between the towns, but the roads in winter are rather unpleasant for travelling.

There is another project to prolong the line towards Azul, but nothing positive has yet been arrived at, and it is probable that for some years the line will go no further than Chascomus.

CHAP. X.

TARIFFS, TAXES, REGULATIONS.

PROVINCIAL STAMPED PAPER.

ART. 1. The stamps to be used in all Provincial documents in Buenos Ayres (the Custom-house and Federal Courts being national, for which see page 179, Section A), shall be as follows:—

Amount.				Not over 90 days.		Over 90 days.
\$100	to	\$3,000	....	\$3	....	\$5
3,001	do.,	5,000	....	5	....	10
5,001	do.,	10,000	....	10	....	15
10,001	do.,	20,000	....	20	....	30
20,001	do.,	30,000	....	30	....	45
30,001	do.,	40,000	....	40	....	60
40,001	do.,	50,000	....	50	....	75
50,001	do.,	60,000	....	60	....	90
60,001	do.,	70,000	....	70	....	105
70,001	do.,	80,000	....	80	....	120
80,001	do.,	90,000	....	90	....	135
90,001	do.,	100,000	....	100	....	150
100,001	do.,	150,000	....	150	....	225
150,001	do.,	200,000	....	200	....	300
200,001	do.,	250,000	....	250	....	375
250,001	do.,	300,000	....	300	....	450
300,001	do.,	400,000	....	400	....	600
400,001	do.,	500,000	....	500	....	750

and so on in proportion.

Art. 2. All bills of exchange, promissory notes, &c., whether in Buenos Ayres currency or other money, shall have stamps as in the foregoing scale.

Art. 3. All contracts for sale of houses or lands, or goods, and all monetary transactions for stated periods, either with or without a broker, shall be on stamped paper, but the first draft may be on plain paper.

Art. 4. Police contracts, such as for apprentices, servants, or orphans, shall have a \$3 stamp; and the same for each page of a petition to any of the public authorities; also each page of an arbitration, notary's documents, &c.

Art. 5. A copy certificate of birth, marriage, or death, a license for the inner provinces, and each page of a valuator's report, shall have a \$5 stamp.

Art. 6. A copy of special power of attorney, protest of a bill, or other registered document in a notary's office shall have a \$10 stamp; the same for a «guia» for cattle, and «boletos» of measurement from the Topographic Department; also for each page of a contract with amount not expressed.

Art. 7. Documents for sale of furniture or real estate, and promises to pay, either with or without mortgage, shall have the proper stamp as in Art. 1. Notary's certificates shall be on \$3 stamp.

Art. 8. Certificates of registered contracts shall likewise be on \$3 stamp.

Art. 9. Copies of such documents as specified in Arts. 6 and 7, executed before 1862, shall have stamp as in Art. 1 on the first page, and \$3 on following pages.

Art. 10. Each page of a land measurement, general power of attorney, or draft of a will, \$20.

Art. 11. Despatches of promotion, license on coming of age, or for fowling, the first page of a will, all petitions to Government or the law courts for measurement of frontier lands or beyond the Salado, or to the Topographic Department for delineations in the city, outside the area of Calles Corrientes, Belgrano, Piedras, Esmeralda, Defensa, and Julio, shall have a \$100 stamp; but petitions to the Department for renewal of doors and windows shall only pay \$30.

Art. 12. Petitions for measurement within the Salado and the frontier, copies of plans from the Department, professional diplomas, and seals to wills, \$200.

Art. 13. Petitions for professional matriculation, for delineation of house property within the area mentioned in Art. 11 shall pay \$500, but renewal of doors and windows only \$100.

Art. 14. Boletos for new marks, \$500; copy or transfer of marks, \$100.

Art. 15. Receipts may be given on plain paper, but if placed in evidence require a \$3 stamp.

Art. 16. The party presenting the documents or originating proceedings shall pay the stamp.

Art. 17. Judges or authorities may use plain paper, *pro tem*.

Art. 18. No public employee shall admit a document not properly stamped.

Art. 19. Any party giving or receiving a document not properly stamped shall incur a fine of tenfold the proper stamp; notaries shall suffer the same fine, and for a second offence suspension.

Art. 20. In cases of doubt the proper authority shall decide the amount of stamp, without appeal.

Art. 21. In January each year all unused stamps may be exchanged.

Art. 22. Spoiled stamps may be likewise exchanged at any time, paying \$1 each.

Art. 23. Contracts for a monthly sum shall pay half the stamp of the amount for the whole term.

LAW OF LICENSES OR PATENTS (1869).

Art. 1. The various trades and professions are divided into eleven categories, for the payment of Patents for 1869, as follows:—

Category 1. First class, \$50,000; second class, \$25,000; third class, \$15,000. This category comprises banks, gas company, and houses exclusively occupied in discounting.

Category 2. First class, \$12,000; second class, \$8,000; third class, \$5,000. This category comprises houses of importation and consignment, whether they keep goods in Custom-house deposit or have private stores, or receive goods despatched direct; it also includes saladeros, houses that export produce, insurance companies, and agencies of every kind.

Category 3. First class, \$8,000; second class, \$5,000; third class, \$3,000. This category comprises mills, wholesale shops of every kind, hotels, public lodging houses, markets, and travelling huxters who sell liquor.

Category 4. First class, \$5,000; second class, \$3,000; third class, \$2,000. This category comprises private hospitals, undertakers, graserias, drug stores, jewellery shops, clothing marts, theatres, auction marts, steamboat agencies, and bazaars for the sale of articles of luxury.

Category 5. First class, \$3,000; second class, \$2,000; third class, \$1,500. This category includes shops or stores by wholesale and retail, wine merchants, furniture marts, newspaper offices, consignees of produce and cattle from the country, breweries, carriage builders, auctioneers, coal and timber yards, billiard manufacturers or retailers.

Category 6. First class, \$2,500; second class, \$1,500; third class, \$1,000. This category comprises ship brokers, produce barracas with presses, coach yards, waggon factories, machine depots, ship chandlers, shipbuilding yards, fondas, taverns, and coffee houses.

Category 7. First class, \$2,000; second class, \$1,000; third class, \$700; fourth class, \$500. This category comprises photographers, dentists, retail shops for dry goods and groceries, gunsmiths, upholsteries, lamp shops, saddleries, factories of soap, chocolate, tiles, oil, macaroni, &c., and tan yards; also shops of hardware, musical instruments, pictures and mirrors, printing offices, public gardens, confectionary shops, ready-made clothing shops, military outfitters, agencies of all kinds, millinery shops, distilleries, piano stores, foundries, cigar shops, whaleboat offices, barracas without presses, and all lottery vendors who are not invalids or above 60 years of age.

Category 8. First class, \$1,000. This category comprises lawyers, physicians, surgeons, notaries public, accountants, architects, and master builders.

Category 9. First class, \$800; second class, \$500; third class, \$300. This category includes land surveyors, haberdashers, apothecaries, watchmakers, silversmiths, hatters, shoemakers, tinsmiths, cuttlers, coopers, combmakers, blacksmiths, carpenters, dyers, stone cutters, chair makers, house painters, guitar makers, huxters, sail makers, mattress makers, charcoal sellers, attorneys, brokers, midwives, sewing machine workers, lace makers, coffin makers, baling presses, plumbers, turners, hair dressers, bakers, livery stables, peep shows, broom and basket makers, booksellers, window blind makers, coach offices, tinkers, laundries, chiropodists, opticians, &c.

Category 10. First class \$450. This category comprises weighers, measurers, pilots, bleeders, veterinary surgeons, engravers, painters, paper and bell-hangers.

Category 11. First class, 300\$. This category comprises organ grinders, fiddlers, fan-makers, book-binders, huxters, piano-tuners, clothes cleaners, stucco-workers, and all others not specified in any of the above categories.

Art. 2. The tariff shall be one-half in the country districts, excepting all saladeros, graserias, and steam-factories within two leagues of the municipal boundary of the city.

Art. 3. The assessment of the amount of Patent according to the classification of the various industries as above, shall be done by a committee appointed in each town by the Executive.

Art. 4. When one house comprises different branches the committee shall assess that which pays the highest Patente: if there be separate doors for such branches of business, they shall assess the highest Patente and half that which answers to the lower branch.

Art. 5. From article 3 are excepted the following, all which pay 1st. class in their respective categories—Gas Company, travelling huxters, pedlars, dentists, lottery-vendors, attorneys, brokers, midwives, chiropodists. Except also land-surveyors, and these shall pay the 2nd class in their respective category.

Art. 6. The committee for assessing Patentes shall classify the various shop-keepers, &c. and deliver to each a ticket expressing how much they have to pay.

Art. 7. Parties who may not have received such ticket can apply to the committee within eight days after the classification. In case of disagreement about the amount payable the interested party may appeal within thirty days to a jury composed of five members, whose decision shall admit of no appeal.

Art. 8. There shall be two juries in the city of Buenos Ayres, and one in each town or partido of the province; the members being named by the respective municipalities and electing their own chairman.

Art. 9. The juries of appeal must be installed before the 1st of April, and at once communicate with the classifying committees.

Art. 10. The committees shall before the 30th March submit to the juries their respective lists, and the juries give notice in the public papers of the time and place for hearing of appeals, at which, moreover, the committees must also assist, to give any necessary information.

Art. 11. After the term of thirty days the jury shall close its sittings and send in the returns as amended to the Oficina de Patentes.

Art. 12. All Patentes must be taken out in the country districts before August 30th, and the Executive shall fix a suitable term in the city for each profession.

Art. 13. Whoever violate this law shall pay a fine double the amount of Patente, besides being obliged to take out the proper Patente.

Art. 14. Each country municipality shall receive 10 per cent. of the proceeds of Patentes in its district.

Art. 15. The Executive is authorized to expend 5 per cent of the gross proceeds and 20 per cent. of the fines in the collection of the tax.

CONTRIBUCION DIRECTA.

Property Tax.

Art. 1. All landed or household property in town or country shall pay four per mil on its assessed value.

Art. 2. Proprietors whose total estate is not worth \$20,000 m/c., and that they reside on same, are exempted from this tax.

TARIFF FOR LIGHTERS.

Loading.

	Balizas.	Pozos.		Balizas.	Pozos.
Anchors, qq.,	\$3½	\$4½	Do. Hav. sugar,	13	15
Acid sulph.,	40	40	Do. rockets.	1	1
Bales estraza paper,	2½	3	Do. starch ½@,	2	2½
Do. tobacco,	10	12	Do. ling qq.,	3½	4½
Do. twine,	2½	2½	Do. nails,	3½	4½
Do. N. A. wick,	1½	1½	Do. w. glass, cube ft.	3½	4½
Barrels beer,	5½	6½	Do. glass-ware ft.,	1½	1½
Do. Braz. sugar,	7	8	Do. indigo, blue, @	1	1½
Do. N. A. tar,	6	7	Do. candles, @	1½	2½
Do. Swedish tar,	8	10	Do. gunpowder, @	6	6
Do. flour,	4½	5	Do. preserves,	8	10
Do. sugar, alpiste,	6	7	Do. dulce,	9	10
Do. Seltzer,	8	9	Do. oysters,	2	2½
Do. pimenton,	2	2½	Do. paper, 20 reams,	8	10
Do. resin,	8	10	Do. N. A. chairs,	7	8
Boxes tea ½,	½	½	Do. soap,	2½	3
Do. tbcu, grease, qq.	3½	4½	Do. wines, cognac,		
Do. ink, blacking,	2½	3	pickles,	1½	2½
Do. raisins, fideos,	1½	1½	Do. champagne, liqrs,	2½	3

	Balizas.	Pozos.		Balizas.	Pozos.
Do. gin, doz.	1½	1½	Marble, ton	65	65
Do. sardines,	4	5	Oars, each,	1½	1½
Bags rice,	6	7	Oil, @,	1¼	1½
Do. farinã,	4	4½	Oil in tins,	2	3
Do. pimenton,	4½	5½	Olives, @	1	1¼
Do. corks,	1½	1½	Paper estraza, ream,	½	½
Do. nuts, sugar, coffee	5	5½	Paint, @	1	1
Baldosas, Havre, mil,	80	90	Potatoes, @	1½	1¾
Do. Marseilles,	65	75	Pots, qq.	6	7
Do. Spanish, cart,	40	50	Pine-boards, 1000 ft.	65	75
Barras, each,	3	3	Rolls, matting	6	7
Brooms, doz.	2½	3	Do. felpudos, doz.	4	5
Bocoys, coal,	40	40	Do. tobacco, @	1	1
Do. lump-sugar,	25	30	R. cement, soda, qq.	2½	3
Buckets, doz.	4	5	Railway bars, ton	70	70
Cables, qq.	5	6	Tinware, qq.	4	5
Do. do.	4	5	Tubs, ½ doz.	5½	6
Coal, iron, ton	55	55	Tanned hides,	1¼	1½
Cheese, Eidam, doz.	2½	3	Terralla, cart,	40	40
Do. 12lb.	¾	1	Tablas, Braz. 1 inch	30	30
Coke, ton,	60	70	Do. 2 inch	50	50
Crockery, cask,	1¾	1¾	Tablillas,	2½	3
Do. hampers,	30	35	Wood, 1000 ft.	120	120
Demijohns, 5 gals.	1½	2	Wax, qq.	3½	4½
Do. 2½	1¼	1½	Wheat, lime, fan.	5	6
Do. 1	¾	¾	Wire, steel, qq.	4	4½
Salt, fan.	6	7	Zinc, qq.	3½	4
Spades, bundles	4	5	pipes, aguardiente,	25	28
French tiles, mil	200	200	Do. empty.	11	12
Fire-bricks,	150	150	Do. abatidas,	6	6
Firewood, 100 pges	5	6	Posts,	2	2
Hams,	¾	1	Do. half,	1½	1½
Hardware, canvas,			Perches 50f. by 10in.	200	200
packing, matches,			Peje-palo, bundles	5	6
paper, and cigars,			Yerba, Parnaguá	5	6
per cube ft.	2½	2½	Do. half sobs,	4	5
Hemp, qq.	6	7	Do. Parag. & R. G.	5	5½
Kerosene, 10 gals.	3½	4½	Do. Misionera,	7	8

Machinery, iron safes, botadores and tirantes, at conventional prices.

Discharging.

From Custom-house.	Balizas.	Pozos.	From Barracas.
Animals, each, <i>duro</i>	\$80	\$80	\$80
Bones, ton,	70	70	70
Bone-ash,	55	55	55
Bales, hay,	20	25	25
Bales, wool, hair, [Provinces]	32	40	40
Bales, wool, [Buenos Ayres]	28	34	34
Canillas, mil,	20	25	25
Caracues	30	36	40
Chiguas, wool and hair,	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
Chiguas, Santiago,	15	18	18
Deerskins,	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Horns, mil,	50	60	60
Hides, salted ox,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hides, salted mares,	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hides, dry matadero,	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	1 $\frac{5}{8}$
Hides, dry, Spain and N. A.	1	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Hides, dry mare and calf,	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{7}{8}$
Jerked beef, qq.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hoofs, ton,	100	100	100
Machos, mil,	200	200	200
Pipes, grease and tallow,	24	30	30
Pipes iron, tallow,	40	40	40
Pipones, tallow	40	40	40
Straw, bundles,	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sheepskins, dox.,	4	4	4
Wool in bags,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Boxes tallow, 2qq.	6	7	7
Boxes Mares' grease, 3qq.	8	10	10
Boxes mares' grease, 4qq.	12	14	14

Delays—After two days at the rate of \$250 a day for 30 bales [B. A.] In unloading the ton is calculated at 2211 lbs.; in loading or in ballast the ton has only 2000 lbs. In discharging matches, paper, hardware, packing, glassware, cigars and brushes, the price is by the cubic foot English and includes cart-hire to the Custom-house: in other articles the owner has to pay the carts. The English ton measurement has 40 cubic feet, the French 52 English cubic feet, and 100 feet English are equal to 117 Hamburg ditto.

Re-embarkation—Hacienda \$45, comestibles \$30 per cart. Cargo above the Barraca bridge is charged 20 per cent. extra, either loading or discharging.

No complaint allowed beyond four days after delivery of goods: all complaints should be made to the lighterman, but the undersigned do not answer for damage caused by fortuitous events.

Casares & Sons, Rodriguez & Sons, Guerrero, Hoevel & Langenheim, Señorans & Fuzier, Bernal & Co., Neves, Rubio & Co., Nuñez, Noceti & Tornquist, Bettolache & Co., Caranza, Camartino & Co., Garri & Co., Garcia, Bergmann & Dickleman, McLean, Garay & Co., Ferrer & Co., Marti, Plá & Co., Ascheri, Guimaraens, Solari, Laforgue, Curell Bros., Delfino, Dodero, Agnese, Coelho, Dally, Martin, B. Curell & Co., F. Casares.

MUNICIPAL GAS AND SERENO TAX.

1. Mercantile houses, barracas, timber yards, wholesale stores, mills, printing offices, hotels, insurance offices, clubs, and theatres, pay \$30 a month for serenoes, \$40 for gas, and where there is no gas \$15 for oil.

2. Bakers, hatters, baths, soap boilers, coach makers, brewers, druggists, jewellers, ship chandlers, livery stables, and lithographers, pay as above—\$20, \$30, \$12.

3. Blacksmiths, coffee houses, upholsterers, apothecaries, watchmakers chandlers, and cart owners, pay—\$15, \$25, \$10.

4. Drapers, grocers, workshops, pulperias, butchers, and eating-houses, pay—\$10, \$20, \$5.

5. Private houses pay—\$5, \$5, \$3.

6. Rooms on the street pay—\$2, \$2, \$2.

7. Houses with two doors shall pay half for the second, and the same for unbarred windows. Empty houses pay nothing, but, once taken, a part of a month counts for a whole one.

PAROCHIAL DIVISION OF THE CITY.

1. *Catedral al Norte*.—From Calle Rivadavia to Paraguay, and from Paseo Julio to Calle Maypu.

2. *Catedral al Sud*.—From Calle Rivadavia to Chile, and from the river to Calle Las Piedras.

3. *San Telmo*.—From Calle Chile to the Riachuelo, and from the Paseo Colon to Calle Piedras and Barracas.

4. *Concepcion*.—From Calle Mexico to Caseros, and from Calle Las Piedras to San José.

5. *Montserrat*.—From Calle Potosi to Caseros, and from Las Piedras and San José to Sarandi.

6. *San Miguel*.—From Calle Maypu to Calle Talcahuano, and from Cuyo to Potosi.

7. *San Nicolas*.—From Calle Maypu to Uruguay, and from Cuyo to Charcas.

8. *Socorro*.—From Calle Paraguay to the Pobre Diablo, and from Hueco de Cabecitas to Calle Uruguay.

9. *Pilar*.—From Pobre Diablo to the Arroyo Maldonado, and from the Cinco Esquinas to the municipal boundary.

10. *Piedad*.—From Calle Uruguay and Santiago del Estero to Ayacucho and Sarandi, and from Calle Charecas to Potosi.

11. *Balvanera*.—From Calle Charecas to the Puente Alsina, and from Calles Sarandi and Ayacucho to the municipal boundary at Piran's quinta.

NOTE.—It is proposed to form a new parish in North Barracas, embracing also the Boca, and to divide the Balvanera parish, forming another new one at the south-west quarter of the suburbs, between the Puente Alsina, Calle Solis, and Calle Mexico. The Archbishop has given his consent for the change as soon as the intended parishes be provided with churches.

RULES OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

The Faculty is composed of ten professors, eight substitutes, and a secretary. The School of Medicine is opposite San Telmo church.

The medical studies require six years. Besides these, the candidate for a studentship must show certificates of having passed satisfactorily examinations in Latin, philosophy, mathematics, chemistry, and physics.

The pharmaceutical studies are Latin, philosophy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, botany, and pharmacology. The medical student, after passing satisfactorily six yearly examinations, and two general examinations, receives the diploma of Doctor in Medicine. The pharmaceutical student receives that of Licentiate in Pharmacy.

All those who wish to practise medicine or pharmacy in Buenos Ayres must present their diplomas of Doctor or Licentiate in Medicine or Pharmacy of a Faculty or University recognised by that of this country. The medical student must also undergo two examinations; one before the professors of anatomy and physiology, general pathology, materia medica, pathological anatomy, &c., obstetrics, &c., which lasts two hours; the other examination consists of two practical cases of medicine and two operations. The examinations are in the Spanish language, and are public.

The candidates pay as fees \$100 s. If the candidate does not pass a satisfactory examination half the amount is returned to him, and he cannot present himself again until six months have passed.

The foreign candidates for the pharmaceutical diploma, without which they cannot open a pharmaceutical establishment, must pass two examinations; one practical, for which he will have to make six chemical and pharmaceutical preparations; the other theoretical.

CHAP. XI.

THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER PLATE
AND
PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

THE APPROACH TO THE RIVER.

THE depth of this river increases from the spot where it is joined by its two great tributaries to the sea, and the bottom is oozy, and in some places rocky, to the meridian of Montevideo. From here it changes, and its proximity to the ocean becomes gradually apparent, for the ooze is mixed with sand; as the mouth of the river is approached the sand is finer, and mixed with shells and rocks, the northern bank only remaining oozy. The rocks (*tosea*) are principally found on the southern coast, from the Saladillo to the little bay of Barragan. The bottom at this part of the coast is very hard, and the water shallow, the width of the bay being two or three leagues. The different bottoms of sand, shells and sand, and rocks and sand, situated to the east of the meridian of Montevideo, may be considered as an immense bank, known at its culminating point as the English Bank. The bed of La Plata is full of banks and quicksands, extending for more than thirty leagues to the east of its mouth, and from thence inwards, obstructing its course and rendering the navigation to Buenos Ayres difficult for vessels of a certain tonnage. We will again refer to these dangers in Vol. II. The tinge of the water of the La Plata, produced by lime, extends for more than twenty leagues into the ocean.

Islands.

It is only on the left bank they are to be met with, which is rocky, while on the opposite side not a stone is to be found. The principal are Lobos, S.E. of Maldonado; Gorriti, in the same bay; Flores, east of Montevideo; San Gabriel, Lopez, and Farallon, opposite Colonia; Hornos, north of these; Martin Garcia, near the delta of the Paraná: besides these there are several rocky clusters more or less distant from the coast.

Banks.

The principal ones are the English (the most dangerous), the Archimedes, Medusa, Chico, Nuevo, Big and Little Ortiz, Las Palmas, &c. As far as Maldonado there are no banks, but from that to Montevideo the English Bank must be rounded; and if the south passage is taken Archimedes and Medusa also: if Buenos Ayres is the destination all must be passed. To reach Montevideo a pilot is seldom employed; but rarely indeed are the services of a pilot dispensed with when going up to Buenos Ayres. Formerly, before the creation of the ports of Montevideo and Maldonado, mariners preferred the southern shore, passing the English Bank, and those bound for Buenos Ayres stopped at the port of Barragan. Such was the dread inspired by the dangerous banks supposed to be at the mouth of the La Plata that seamen dubbed it «the sailors' hell,» and the insurance on its navigation was equal to that paid from Europe to its mouth, it being considered a miracle to escape. Few were the merchant vessels to be seen on its bosom, and a war vessel never except in time of war. The vessels most frequenting it were Spanish, but never above 500 tons. No vessel sailed on it by night, which was always passed at anchor, and the course steered was by the eastern side of the Ortiz Bank; but, according as the river became better known, and ports sprung up, the fear inspired by the banks decreased, and the navigation of the river made great progress, aided by the exact and detailed charts introduced, and the pilot service that was organised. If we are to believe the writers and sailors of the last century, it should help to dissipate our terror to know that hurricanes were then less frequent than formerly, nor were they so violent as in the first years of the river's discovery. From the time that ports were made at Montevideo and Maldonado, and the northern shore of the river better known, navigation by the southern side was completely abandoned, whether through the want of good points of observation, or the few ports or harbors to be found along it, or that but little was known of it, or the exact situation of Cape San

Antonio, until the necessity of avoiding the English cruisers off Santa Maria and Maldonado obliged the Spanish vessels to find a new passage to the south of the bank, sailing by parallels 35 deg. 5m. to 36 deg. until arrived at the meridian of Montevideo, and then making for this port, or Barragan, or Buenos Ayres, as the case might be. This course, once safely opened, it has so continued, until, with the establishing of so many lighthouses, the river is now entered by the northern side.

Anchorage.

Wherever the lead shows that the bottom is oozy an anchor may be let go, taking care, however, to give a wide berth to the banks, lest the ship might drag on to them. With winds from the south the southern side is preferable, from other points the northern is best. Large vessels can get as far as Montevideo, while vessels drawing fifteen or nineteen feet of water can fearlessly ascend as far as Buenos Ayres or the Hornos Island. As shelter from the N.N.E., E., and S.E. winds the best parts are Hornos, Montevideo, and Maldonado, although the latter is not perfectly sheltered from the S.E., which reaches the anchorage through the pass of Gorriti. The Bay of Barragan, and the roads of Buenos Ayres, are sheltered from S.W. winds. Small vessels can anchor off Cape Santa Maria, at the entrance of the Santa Lucia, and off Colonia, on the northern shore; in the Tuyú and Saladillo rivers, the Bay of Barragan, and the Riachuelo, near Buenos Ayres, on the southern. Ships can anchor at Maldonado in six or eight fathoms; in the roads of Montevideo, four to six fathoms; in the harbor, two to three fathoms; in the roads at Barragan, three fathoms; the roads of Buenos Ayres, three to six fathoms; near the city, two to three fathoms. Against S.W. winds the anchorage on the northern shores is best, against those from the S.E. the others. Of all these anchorage grounds that of Maldonado is the best, as the bottom is oozy, covered with sand. In the others the bottom is mud, in which the anchor cannot hold during strong winds.

Lights.

The lighthouses of the La Plata in this part have considerably improved of late years. At present there are five stationary and five floating lights; the first-named are placed on the Island of Flores, the Cerro of Montevideo, Colonia, and the Custom-house of Buenos Ayres. The floating lights point

out the following dangers: the English Bank, Panela Quicksands, New Bank, Little Bank, and the roads of Buenos Ayres. We will give in their proper place detailed particulars of these lights, leaving it as granted that their combination greatly facilitates the entry and navigation of the river during the night. The first light known in the Rio de la Plata was that of the poop lantern of the Spanish frigate Loreto, lost off San José in 1792, and placed on the Island of Flores. This light was afterwards removed, in 1798, to the Cerro of Montevideo, experiencing a thousand vicissitudes, until one light was established on the island, and another on the Cerro.

Beacons and Buoys.

There are many along the river, but complete confidence cannot be placed in their stability, as the force of the current often tears them away, or, what is even worse, displaces them, for then, instead of acting as a warning against danger, they lead to it. The principal beacons are those on San José Point, at Montevideo, and at the Martin Garcia channel. The Bell Buoy on the English Bank disappeared during a tempest, and has never been replaced.

THE PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

The port is no better than any other on the river, the anchorage not being good, in consequence of the softness of the bottom, which allows of the anchors dragging when the wind blows from the N.E., this wind traversing the roads in an oblique direction, and raising generally a heavy sea. The anchoring ground is divided into the Outer and Inner Roads, formed on one side by the City Bank, and on the other by the Camarones Bank, which is a ramification of the great Palmas or Playa Honda Bank. The Port of Buenos Ayres being but a very indifferent one by nature, and hitherto neglected by the authorities, it is insufficient for the trade of this vast emporium. No captain considers his ship safe whilst anchored in these offings (it being impossible to call the «port» anything else), as every gale of wind from S.W. round to N.E. imperils his vessel. Many schemes have been proposed for constructing a harbor and docks; but as yet nothing has been done.

In the early part of 1869, Mr. Bell of Glasgow arrived out for the purpose of surveying the port, in company with Mr. Miller of the same place. After a minute study and survey, the plans were drawn up, and proposals sent into Government for the purpose of constructing docks and building warehouses. The plans have not been made public; but, in the month of March, 1869, all questions being definitely settled, the Government concluded the contract. A company for the purpose of carrying out the same is being formed, having for its representatives Mr. John Proudfoot in England and Mr. Edward Madero in Buenos Ayres. The enterprise is one of the most important for the maritime commerce of the Port of Buenos Ayres, and being in such good hands will doubtless prove a reality. In Vol. II. of this Handbook a copy of the concession, with a full description of the scheme, will be given.

Meantime, attention is turned to the adjacent rivulets and available advantageous points as adjuncts for relieving the port; hence comes the importance of the Riachuelo, the Capitania of San Fernando and the Tigre, and even Ensenada, which is eight leagues off. Thus the Port of Buenos Ayres may be considered as extending from Ensenada to the Tigre. And the nautical observations and directions in this chapter must prove useful to those engaged in the trade of the River Plate.

The Outer Roads.

Consist of a channel half a mile wide and three to four long, stretching N.W. to S.E. by E., between the City Bank and that of Las Palmas. The water here is from nineteen to twenty-four feet deep, with a muddy bottom, but at the eastern entrance there is a bar preventing the ingress of large vessels of war; on the bar there is only a depth of seventeen feet of water, so large vessels are obliged to remain outside. A good point for a large vessel to anchor in nineteen feet of water and muddy bottom is four miles distant from the mole of Buenos Ayres, with the tower of the Residencia bearing W.S.W. It is the nearest point of the outer roads where a large vessel can lie. A little further north the depth increases one or two feet; this is also a good station, keeping in a direct line with the belfreys of Santa Catalina and San Nicolas, or marking them from the south 81 degrees west. The tower on the Residencia is the most conspicuous object on shore, and is situated in the southern part of the city. This point is called the Amarradero, because in former times all European vessels anchored here.

Palmas Bank.

Is also called Playa Honda, is very wide, and is formed by the sand driven down by the Uruguay and Paraná. On this bank the water does

not shoal rapidly; nevertheless, great care must be taken in sounding, and not to pass seventeen feet with a vessel drawing fifteen or sixteen feet.

The City Bank.

The bottom on this bank is hard, and the water shoals more rapidly than on Las Palmas, and greater precautions must be taken to avoid grounding. The bar once passed the depth increases gradually, and the bottom becomes softer. When a depth of eighteen feet is reached, in order to lie as near land as possible, the anchor should be let go, when the bearings are as follows:—

Custom-house,	....	....	S. 38 deg. W.
Rocoleta Church,	....	....	S. 64 deg. W.
Residencia, ....	....	....	S. 30 deg. W.
Guard Ship,	....	....	S. 50 deg. E.

Distant 2' 2" miles.

The best ground is in a depth of twenty-three feet at low tide. It is a kind of channel, outside of which the water is shallower. This anchorage is situated exactly in the centre of a line three miles long from N.W. to S.E.; this is where all the vessels in the Outer Roads anchor, from the Guard Ship outwards. The Guard Ship is anchored to the N. 72 deg. E., from the Custom-house, distant 3' 7" miles. The channel alluded to is 3' 5" miles from the mole.

The Pozo Anchorage.

Vessels having only fourteen feet draught will here find fifteen feet of water, oozy bottom, the Rocoleta Church bearing S.W. and the mole-head due south. To reach this anchorage it is better to take a pilot, although it is not difficult to get to it if the following directions be observed:—Sailing towards it from the Outer Roads, the course to be steered is north 60 west, for a little more than two miles, and then edging away S.W. by S. as marked on the chart, until the spot already referred to be reached.

Inner Roads.

They are also called Las Valizas, and extend over a short distance a mile and a-half long by three cables' lengths wide, running parallel to the coast from S.S.E. to N.N.W. and formed by the City Bank, and the river side; near the latter is a reef of rocks. To get in, vessels must not draw more than thirteen feet of water, and a pilot is necessary. The holding is bad, as the bottom is rocky, covered with ooze, and anchors drag easily; the waves rise very high when the winds come from the S.E., and a storm from

this point generally drives some vessels on shore. Good cables are absolutely necessary for anchorage in these roads in a storm from the S.E., as no help can be expected from the shore should they prove faulty. In such a case the river is greatly swollen, and the vessels drive on to the banks near the city, to the imminent risk of the lives of their crews. Some river trading vessels often set sail and run for Las Conchas to the W. of San Isidro point, which is sheltered from the S.E. wind. It must here be repeated that no vessel of tonnage should attempt to reach either the Pozo or Inner Roads without a pilot, as in order to reach them the channels near the City and Camarones Banks have to be gone through, which can only be done through landmarks combined and laid down, of the existence of which a foreigner is generally ignorant. Besides, the marks laid down for the guidance of pilots in the beginning of this century are of no use to those of the present day, in consequence of the change of position of many of the banks and channels, a change sufficiently apparent if the charts of the Buenos Ayres roads, drawn out by the Spaniards in the last century, be compared with those of Mons. Barral in 1831, and Mr. Sidney in 1856. To the west of the Pozo anchorage, and a little nearer to the city, there is a channel through which vessels drawing less than ten feet eight inches of water can pass. It is a shelving of the City Bank, called Santa Catalina Canal, with less water than the Pozo, and is much frequented by steamboats, saving them about two miles distance; but the greatest experience is required to pass safely through it.

Anchorage.

As both roads are exposed to the S.E. wind, and the high sea which it raises when blowing strong, two anchors must be let go N.E., S.W., with plenty of chain, say seventy to eighty fathoms each. It would always be well to select a spot free from ships to the S.E., so that if the wind should come from this quarter there may be no ships ahead to run foul of you, an accident very common in this port, and generally having fatal results. With the wind from other quarters the roads are safe, and even during the pamperos, the most destructive winds in the River Plate, the water is smooth. The bad weather often prevents communication between ships and the shore. The ships being anchored so far off, communication with the shore is laborious and sometimes difficult, days often passing before passengers can land. For this reason, all vessels should anchor as near shore as possible.

Precautions.

When entering the Outer Roads great care must be taken to avoid the many sunken vessels. Two hulls have already disappeared, embedded in the mud, and the others may be considered as so many hidden rocks, often without buoys. The position of all of them is perfectly known to pilots. Care should be taken in shallow water not to run on the anchors of other vessels, and when at anchor to ride with a long chain, in order not to run on your own anchors. Accidents of this nature might prove fatal in case of a fall in the river. Many captains prefer riding with a single long cable, holding themselves ready to let go another anchor if required. As so many vessels are constantly anchored in both roads, a good position should be selected clear of other ships, in order to avoid fouling, an accident that occasions many losses. The Pampero wreck in the inner roads is still visible.

Piers.

Before such existed passengers and goods were landed in carts, that went out to meet the boats, at a distance of two or three cables' lengths from the shore, but since 1855 there are two handsome piers built of wood and iron, of from 400 to 600 metres in length. That in front of La Merced is for passengers, and that opposite the Custom-house is for goods. They are, nevertheless, not of sufficient length, for when the river is low, luggers, or even boats, have not sufficient water, and the old system of carts has to be resorted to. The depth at this part of the bank is little, in consequence of the gradual accumulation of slime. The merchandise brought by large ships, and also all that is exported, is carried in luggers destined for this purpose.

Position of Buenos Ayres.

The geographical position of this city was determined by several Spanish commissions at the end of the last century. They established an observatory in the Cabildo, and put under contribution several celestial phenomena, which aided by chronometrical comparisons with the meridian of Montevideo gave as a result $34^{\circ} 36' 38''$ S. lat., and $52^{\circ} 11' 38''$ W. long., which shows but a slight difference when compared with Mr. Barral's observations, thus proving the correctness and delicacy with which the Spanish geographers and astronomers of the last century worked. The difference they found between the meridians of Montevideo and Buenos Ayres was $2^{\circ} 10' 16''$. (See Second Memoir of the Hydrographical Direction, published in Madrid, edition of 1809, page 7.) The variation of the needle is calculated at 10° N.E. for 1868; the annual decrease in the variation is estimated at five minutes.

Floating Light.

The Guard Ship stationed to the south of the Outer Roads carries every night a fixed red light, which can be seen six or seven miles off in fine weather. The Guard Ship is painted black, and has three masts; her principal duty is to watch over the safety of the port. She is anchored in sixteen feet five inches of water, at three to five miles to the north, 72° east of the Custom-house, and forty miles north 74° west of the floating light on the Chico Bank, so that steering this course from the Chico light the Outer Roads are reached.

Port Lights

Every night on the Custom-house tower a white light is placed, which taken in conjunction with the floating light, points out an easterly course to the Outer Roads.

Tides and Currents.

The tides are of average regularity in the roads of Buenos Ayres; when the weather is fine their mean rise is about three feet six inches. The rise lasts for about five hours, and the fall seven, running at the rate of from one to two miles an hour, but when the wind is strong the tides are very irregular. Strong winds from the S.E. cause the river to rise, and from the opposite quarter, N.W., to fall, so much that the difference of level between the rise and fall is often fourteen feet three inches. On occasions of strong wind from the N.W., so low has the water often been that vessels have been left almost high and dry. In Vol. II. we will remark on this difference of level which is about ten feet five inches.

Water Provision.

The vessels anchored in the roads generally supply themselves with water from the river itself. The best point for this purpose is to the east of the Ortiz bank, particularly during westerly winds when the water is smooth.

Provisions.

The Buenos Ayres market supplies the sailor with all kinds of provisions, both for daily and sea use. Naval stores of all kinds can also be had from Messrs. Herring, Allinson, and Eckell, and repairs can be effected in the Tigre, at Messrs. Kay & Stephens', Marshall's and others, but at great cost; any aid rendered to vessels also is charged highly for.

Pilots.

There is a corps of pilots organized under the inspection of the Captain of the Port, for the use of vessels navigating the Plate and its affluents.

These men have by law the status of marine police agents in matters relating to their profession. They are obliged when entering a ship to inform the captain as to the navigation laws, the police regulations of the rivers and roads, the system of lights during the night, signals during hazy weather, &c. All pilots are provided with the river police rules, in which their duties are set forth, and rules for navigation laid down whether for night or day, sailing or steam vessels, in order to avoid collisions or other accidents. These rules are printed in five languages, Spanish, French, English, German, and Dutch, for the convenience of navigators, and a copy can be had free at the Port Captain's by any captain or master of a vessel, in order that he may not be able to plead ignorance. It is not laid down by the rules what remuneration the pilots should receive for their services, which is arranged by the pilots themselves every year, at a meeting held for the purpose, and the tariff once agreed upon it is shown to the Port Captain for his sanction. The tariff at present is more moderate than it has been for some years, as are also the port dues. In 1833 a foreign ship of 300 tons and fifteen feet draught of water, bound for Buenos Ayres, with cargo paid—

Pilotage and entrance dues from the Punto del Indio,	\$420
Port pilotage,	90
Port dues,	300
Inspection and stamped paper,	30
Notary's charges,	18
Pilotage outwards leaving the river,	420
Port pilotage,	90
Port dues,	300
Stamped paper, health, and notary,	50

\$1,718

These enormous expenses frightened away foreign ships. A pilot from Montevideo to the Punto del Indio cost \$700; but has since been immensely reduced.

THE RIACHUELO.

This rivulet forms a canal where the rain water from the surrounding flats runs into, and to which the waters of the River Plate penetrate during ordinary tides. Its principal mouth, for it has two, is about a mile S.E. of Buenos Ayres. If by dredging and other hydraulic works, the Riachuelo was a little improved upon, it would, no doubt, be the real port of the

capital. Notwithstanding its shallow entrance and the obstructions of the banks, it is the general refuge of small craft; and once inside there is complete shelter for all necessary operations. Inside the Riachuelo there is from fourteen to seventeen feet at low water, but on the bar there is often not more than three and a-half feet, hence vessels drawing more than ten and a-half feet have to wait for a risen river to enter. In this natural port there is a spacious wharf on its left bank, where the numerous coasting vessels discharge and take in their cargoes. On its right banks are the saladeros, from whence are shipped the staple products of the country, such as wool, hides, tallow, &c. Of course, there are also numerous shops and taverns providing for the wants of the numerous maritime population. Here also small vessels are hauled up for repairs of all kind. The greatest inconvenience of the Riachuelo is the putrid state of its waters in summer, owing to the refuse from the saladeros, the stench being overpowering in warm weather. Years ago there have been projects for the canalization of the Riachuelo, so as to admit ships of all sizes, and the cutting out of docks in its adjacent flats; and in February, 1869, President Sarmiento directed the Government engineer to draw up plans for cleansing the mouth of the Riachuelo.

THE BARRAGAS.

This is a point further inland on the Riachuelo, two miles from its mouth, from whence there are two roads to the city, and in connection with one of which a bridge spans the river. Its inhabitants are dependent on the neighboring saladeros and produce warehouses. It is now connected with the city by the Boca and Southern railways.

ENSENADA DE LOS OLIVOS.

On passing the Retiro Point, which is the northern limit of the port of Buenos Ayres, and where the present gasworks are situated, the coast recedes to the west, and forms the bay called as above, having its northern limit at Point Olivos or San Isidro, distant nine miles from the Retiro, bearing N. 40 deg. W.

POINT SAN ISIDRO.

This is a «barranca» of some sixty-eight feet high. Along this coast, about two miles to the west of Buenos Ayres, may be seen the celebrated palace of Rosas, called Palermo, where the Dictator used to reside in the summer months. Some two and a-half miles further on may also be seen the fashionable rising town of Belgrano. The coast is very shallow, and the canal narrow.

THE PORT OF BUENOS AYRES.

PALERMO BANK.

Is a sandbank in the Ensenada de los Olivos, and near which the rivulet Cobos discharges its waters into the Plate. The towns of San Isidro and San Fernando are close to. The first of these is abreast of Point Olivos or San Isidro, two miles inland, and numbers a good many inhabitants. San Fernando is distant two miles to the N.W. from the former, and is equally well populated. When the new wharves are completed, the port of San Fernando will be of much importance.

RIVER CONCHAS.

Its mouth is about four miles distant from Point San Isidro, bearing N.W. one-quarter W. This river has sufficient water in it during the rising of the tides in the Plate to admit coasting vessels of all classes, numbers of which abandon their anchorage in the roads of Buenos Ayres during S.E. gales to take refuge here. Yet it requires practical experience of the place to run in safely, as the channels wind through the great bank of Playa Honda, and the soundings are very irregular near the coast. There is a good anchorage, with eighteen feet of water, in front of the coast of San Isidro, but it requires pilotage to reach it.

LAS CONCHAS.

Is a small town, similar to the previous ones mentioned, situated on the right bank of the river of same name, about three miles inland. Its inhabitants cultivate their lands and rear cattle. The Tigre may be called its port; a place of rising importance and already described.

DELTA OF THE PARANÁ.

Past the river Conchas the coast stretches to the northward, and its aspect is entirely changed. Low islands, covered with wood, and hemmed in by the great flat of Palmas or Playa Honda, which stretches out twenty miles to the S.E., having one end in the bay of Olivos and the outer roads of Buenos Ayres, and the other at the entrance to the Uruguay, even as far as Martin Garcia. All this accumulation of islands and banks constitute the Delta of the Paraná.

PARANÁ DE LAS PALMAS.

Between the many islands mentioned above are the channels by which the waters of the Paraná enter the Plate. These channels are arms of the river, and their entrances bear separate names, the most prominent ones of which are the Capitan, Mini, and the Palmas, the latter being of good extent.

PARANÁ GUAZU.

This is the name for the principal entrance to the Paraná, distant twenty-five miles from the river Conchas, bearing N.N.E. It is the only channel by which large vessels enter the upper river. The other channels, even when there is sufficient water, are narrow and tortuous, and hence are only frequented by coasters well acquainted with their windings.

LARA AND SANTIAGO BANKS.

These are to the E. and E.N.E. of Point Lara, and to the N. of Santiago. It is not safe to pass between these two banks, as there is scarcely twelve feet of water. There is but little difference on the outer bank, it having some nine feet all over. The bay of Barrangan will be found between the banks near Points Lara and Santiago.

QUILMES BANK.

On passing Point Lara the S.E. end of this bank commences, and stretches abreast of Buenos Ayres, hence one end is called the Quilmes Bank, and the other end the City Bank. It is of sand, or sand and mud, which the lead will indicate sufficiently distinct.

PAMPEROS.

In the River Plate, this is the name for the strong winds which come from W. to S.S.W., and so called from their coming over the great plains called Pampas. They may be classified into two categories—local pamperos and general pamperos. The first is of short duration, and even when it blows strong the sky is clear. The general pampero, on the contrary, comes in squalls and gusts. They have their origin in the Andes mountains, and are the great storms of these latitudes. These are the pamperos proper, called «dirty» in the country, and generally lasting three days. In the first hours, particularly after noon, the pampero is most tempestuous, accompanied by rain and thunder; but when the sky clears, a fresh breeze follows, with fine weather. When the pamperos come in force they last sometimes for fifteen or twenty days, and vessels lying in for the river are much knocked about by the heavy sea which they raise. When the wind shifts to the S. or S.E. and E. in general it becomes clear then, and good weather is established.

But though the pampero is stormy and to be dreaded, it is not so terrible or dangerous as the S.E. gales. If a vessel caught by such a gale is obliged to enter the river, there is no other resource than the anchors, close to a bank, if possible, but even close on shore there is no alternative. As the S.E. gales always bring rainy cloudy weather with them, it is difficult for the navigator to make his port. If a vessel is thus caught outside the river, and not very far, she is in danger of being driven on the coast of Castillos. Thus it is a S.E. gale is more to be feared than a pampero, and experience shows that the wrecks nearly always are caused by winds from the second quarter.

The Approach of a Pampero.

Coming from Europe these winds are not generally met with until lat. 30 deg. or 32 deg. S. is reached. If the wind freshens during the day from N. or N.W., and continues so after mid-day, there is certain change of weather; the change will be a pampero if the wind veers to the fourth quarter, and a mist rises, with lightning in the S. or S.S.W. It is time then to take in sails, and prepare for the squall. The approach of these storms is also indicated by any webs entangling in the shrouds of a ship, by the prevalence of insects brought by the hot winds, by the rise or fall of the river, and the suffocating heaviness of the previous northerly winds. The barometer shows it by a great fall.

The Commencement of a Pampero.

The sudden coming on of a pampero in summer, is during clear weather and a fresh breeze, when a vivid lightning appears in the S.W. If it is daytime, and the squall may be seen coming, or if the wind suddenly shifts to the N.W. or W., and thence to S.W., no time should be lost in making everything ready. A pampero may also come after a calm day and hot weather, and at times follows after strong N.E. winds, when the sky is overclouded.

Duration of a Pampero.

If, after a pampero has set in, the wind is strong from the second quarter, and it continues to rain, it indicates a lengthened duration. The weather will not settle without many squalls from the S.W., which will lighten the atmosphere. If, after the rising or setting of the sun, there is a lull in the wind, it denotes a subsidence or change, and though it may blow strong afterwards it will not last long. When a pampero is about to cease, the wind veers to the W., and the atmosphere clears up; the land breeze will take its place if it be morning, if evening then the N.E. or S.E. sea breeze.

In summer pamperos are but of short duration, but in winter they sometimes last long; occasionally they pass round to the S.E. and then render the coasts obscure. During the nights it does not blow so strongly. These pamperos cleanse the atmosphere, as the N.W. winds in the meridian of Spain, and generally there is a clear sky while they last.

«Turbonada» or Squalls.

Such is the summer pampero called, and at times it bursts with terrific violence, though, happily, but of short duration. If a ship is under sail when indications of such a squall is seen, it may be prudent not only to have the smallest possible canvas on, but also to dip the upper yards, without a moment's delay. «In 1828,» says Captain Fitzroy, «we came very near to be dismasted and capsized during a pampero, although the sails were all lowered or close-reefed: it is therefore wise to take immediate precautions when the indications appear. It may be that such a squall as we then experienced may not again be felt for thirty years. Twenty pamperos out of thirty are not dangerous, and some are only ordinary storms of short duration, and whose advent need not be feared. Years may pass without any very terrible pamperos occurring. From 1828 to 1833 there were none of very great violence, but in the latter year we had three of very great force.» Nearly always when a pampero is about to cease, the wind subsides or veers to the southward. Sometimes these storms extend out to sea, even beyond the latitude of Santa Catalina. If they come with clear weather, they last longer than when the sky is overcast. But in the Plate, and outside its entrance, the winds are very variable.

The Summer Season.

During the fine season, which is from September to March, N.E. winds are prevalent; the atmosphere is hazy, and the sky covered with clouds of undefinable formations. As the river is approached, the winds will be found to go round to the E., and at times blowing fresh from the S.E., with rain and dark weather. Inside the estuary, in good weather, the wind generally will be found to pass round the compass in twenty-four hours. A gallant-sail breeze blows from the S.E. in the evening, replaced by a similar one from the N.E. at night, followed next day by a light wind from the westward or a calm, gradually going round to the S.

«Virazon,» or Sea Breeze.

This is the name for the breeze which has just been mentioned. When it is not prevalent, or baffled by winds from N. and N.W. a «turbonada»

from the S.W., more or less strong, must be expected before the sea breezes are settled. If it is hazy from sunrise until eight or nine o'clock in the morning, the «virazon» is pretty sure to follow. When the weather is settled, the wind in the morning is generally N. or N.N.W., moderate breeze, until ten or eleven o'clock in the morning. Then commences a fresh breeze from outside, from E.S.E. to E.N.E., gradually lessening after sunset, until near midnight, when it generally becomes a calm. From midnight until dawn it goes round again to N. and N.E., and again traverses the same course during the day. Thus, in general, land breezes are prevalent at nights, and sea breezes during the day, until the equilibrium of the atmosphere is upset. The Spanish pilot, Don Claudio Vila, thus describes the weather of the River Plate:—«Good weather generally lasts fifteen or twenty days. In the mornings northerly winds blow strong and warm, increasing with the day, and at noon the sky is overcast and hazy. Soon after, a squall appears forming in the fourth quarter, with another in the S., both sending forth vivid lightning. Ordinarily the changes extend over two days, during which more or less rain falls, the atmosphere is charged, and heavy black clouds are driven to and fro by the available winds prevailing. After this and a heavy thunderstorm, the sky is clear as a bell all over the third quarter, when a pampero begins to blow, but which only lasts for the day, the wind passing rapidly to the second quarter with serene weather.» Sometimes during ordinary weather, instead of a clouded sky, there is rain and fresh winds; but it is not easy to foretell from whence the clouds or wind will come. If from the N., bad weather is likely to follow; and if the wind does not go round to the south, even when it looks clear, the good weather will not then be of much longer duration. The more overcast becomes the sky, and the more it rains and blows from the N., the stronger it must blow from the S. to clear the heavens. During the warm months of summer, when it does not rain much to refresh the earth and atmosphere, the northerly wind is suffocating for man and animal, and the inhabitants attribute baneful influences to it. While it lasts the barometer is low, and continues to fall as it freshens, which may be for three days; the atmosphere is charged with electricity, and it ends nearly always with a gale, when the wind veers to S.W., and the equilibrium is renewed. Near the full and new moon there is generally a breeze from the S.E., with some rain; at other times the wind continues from the N., but not so strong as that from the S.E., and with a higher temperature. The pilots of the Plate say that S.E. winds will prevail if the declination of the moon is southward, and N. winds if the dip of the moon be northward; in the latter case, N. winds will nearly always go round to

N.E. if it be dry weather, but if there be rain or dew, then it is inclined to be N.W. At times it freshens up strong, accompanied with squalls, and runs round to S.W., clear weather: this wind brings a high sea, followed soon by a calm.

The Summer Season in Buenos Ayres.

According to the observations of M. Thoyon, of the French navy, the winds are lightest in these parts from December to March, as also more regular than during the other months of the year. It is usual for the breeze to pass in the evening to the N.E., N., and even N.N.W., blowing strong from the latter point in the morning, but eventually running to N. or N.N.E., and subsiding into a calm about eleven o'clock; in the afternoon it revives from the E. or E.S.E., until dark, when it returns again to N. The pamperos, or S.W. winds, are very rare during these times. In summer, as in winter, N.W. winds are warm, rainy, and disagreeable; whilst the S. winds, after their first stormy advent bring bracing weather and a clear atmosphere. Easterly winds are cold and wet, except the sea breezes in summer. Westerly winds give dry days and agreeable weather. Summer is the worst time to be in the roads of Buenos Ayres, because the S.E. winds are generally fresh during the day, and cause an awkward sea, rendering harbor work and communication with the shore rather difficult.

Winter Season.

The prevalent winds at the mouth of the Plate from March to September are W. and S.W., but inside they are generally from the fourth quarter. At this season, when the weather is very good, the wind goes round with the sun as in summer; but this only happens perhaps once in a fortnight. In general the wind is from S. to E. or from N. to W., blowing more or less strong successively from these quarters. N. winds bring rain, thunder, and lightning, S. winds hail, and those from the E. heavy rains. If the wind follows round with the sun, the weather is settled; but if it shifts inversely, then bad weather and strong winds may be expected. Pilot Vila says:—
«In winter, if the wind comes from N.E., increasing, and remaining fixed

for one or two days, with thick weather, it is dangerous then to navigate the river without experience, especially as the islands and coasts at the entrance cannot be made out, whilst the current is setting in strong. After venting its strength from the second quarter, the wind passes to the first, without ceasing to rain; it remains there for a day or two, settling in the N. on the fourth. At the time when it enters this quarter there will appear a black horizon from the S.E. to W.N.W., then a clear space appears, and a strong pampero will begin to blow on the instant, clearing the sky before it. This wind continues from S.W. to W.S.W. for five or six days, clear weather and light clouds, and at the same time the current from the river begins to set out strongly. The pampero will be followed by winds from the second quarter, which bring on rain again; before long it shifts to the first quarter, and then to the fourth, to be followed again by a furious pampero, but which will not last long, and brings settled weather.» Although S. winds are more frequent and of longer duration in winter than in summer, and though N. winds generally prevail in summer, yet, at times, they occur from the opposite directions. During winter, S. winds are persistent storms, whilst in summer they are shorter, though often strong and violent.

Winter Season in Buenos Ayres.

In these roads winter is preferable to summer, because the common winds are S.W. to N.W., which leaves a smooth river and easy communication. M. Thoyon made the following observations on this season:—«The pamperos are most frequent from June to October, otherwise there are fresh and variable breezes, with many days of calm, rain intervening between these changes. A strong breeze from the E. is almost sure to be followed by a stronger one from the W., and *vice versa*, whilst the weather will not settle until the wind remains in either N. or S., according to where it commenced. Thus, a breeze that springs from the W. passes to S.E., freshening up when it reaches E. or N. E., will leap to the N.W. with a squall, returning again to W.; but the weather will not be good until the breeze springs up again from N.» It may be remarked as traditional among the inhabitants of the Plate, that about Santa Rosa's holiday, which is at the latter end of August, there is always a storm: the hurricane of that period in 1860 was terrific, and twenty vessels were lost in the roads of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo.

Fogs.

During autumn and winter, more especially at the mouth of the river and on the Ortiz Bank, fogs are of frequent occurrence. Don Miguel Lobo, of the Spanish navy, thus speaks of them: «If at new moon, during autumn, the weather is hazy, with light S.E. winds, it is likely to last so for the whole month, thickening as the moon wanes, but disappearing for a short time at nine or ten o'clock in the morning. Sometimes at sunrise the fog seems gathered in the first and second quarter, but it spreads rapidly over the horizon, enveloping everything in more density than usual, and is later in clearing up. At these times fine weather is enjoyed; and, if, during the fog, it is a little humid, when that clears up, no better weather could be wished; about mid-day a light sea breeze sets in, going round to the N. later on. This most agreeable weather in the windy climate of the Plate is interrupted occasionally by a strong S.E. gale, which lasts a few hours only, and is shown by a slight fall in the barometer, which, it should be remarked, stands high when the fogs are most dense and frequent. After this weather generally follows S.W. winds, commencing in the W., the barometer beginning its fall twenty-four or thirty hours before the change occurs.» Inside the river fogs are not so general, as in Buenos Ayres they appear seldom but for a few hours.

Rains.

These are very irregular in the Plate, but are more so in autumn and spring than during the rest of the year; but when it does rain, more water falls than in many parts of Europe. It is remarked also to be more plentiful during day than night, which is the reverse of the other hemisphere. The dews are also very heavy in these regions, equal indeed to a light rain in some parts of the world. It is not less surprising the dampness which prevails at times in the Plate, being such in Buenos Ayres that it affects metals and furniture, and rooms fronting to the south have damp floors and walls. According to Señor Azara, it is a sign of rain when a bank of clouds rise on the western horizon about sunset. Heaviness in the head when northerly wind prevails, also indicates rain, and lightning appearing in the S.W. In the city of Buenos Ayres it is a sure sign of rain if the north coast of the river is visible.

Refraction.

There are times, mostly during westerly winds, when the river presents some strange examples of refraction. It is the general belief in Buenos Ayres when the coast of the Banda Oriental is seen from that city that a change of weather is at hand. This refraction is not always the same, as at times it permits one to see the tops of the hills of San Juan, which are some thirty-six miles off to the N.N.E., whilst at other times the islands of the Paraná and the coast between Colonia and Martin Garcia are visible. During such weather it is difficult to make any nautical observations, and impossible to regulate any chronometer in the roads of Buenos Ayres. What has been stated concerning the winds, both outside and inside the Plate, must be considered as usual or general; but they may happen to the contrary, as they are so variable that no absolute rule can be set down as to either their point or duration, and the experience of successive years may be entirely reversed some seasons.

The Barometer.

Although in the River Plate the rise and fall of the barometer are not very great, nevertheless its indications are almost always correct if consulted carefully. In settled weather its highest point is 760 milímetros, and its general range is within 13m. to this in ordinary weather, but much more when severe changes occur. In the months of July and August the barometer is highest, and in that of June it is lowest. Its highest is during winds from S.E. to N.E., when it reaches even 778m. If the wind rounds to the N., the mercury will fall, and will continue so until N.W. blows. W. and S.W. winds produce the lowest barometer: thus it is that before a strong pampero the barometer will fall to 746 or 744, and even to 741, but ordinarily 746 is below the gradation of the River Plate. The rising of the glass when the wind is S.W. indicates that it is about to cease or change to S. A high barometer, overcast sky, but red at sunset, threatening aspect, with distant lightning, a rising river and a strong current setting in, more especially above the Ortiz Bank, are all signs of a coming S.E. gale. From whatever point a storm comes, or if the weather is murky, the barometer falls; but no sooner has it blown over, and the weather cleared, than it rises again. If it has set in for bad weather, the barometer remains low, until the wind be S.W., when a clearing pampero sets in: it is the same after some hours of great heat. In Buenos Ayres the

barometer falls with E. and S.E. winds, but soon rises if they die out, and will not again fall if the breeze does not spring up from the W., and then, if good weather, its change is but very little. If W. winds continue, and the barometer still falls, then it will blow again from the E. In general the barometer announces easterly winds by rising, though they may be fresh breezes, and westerly winds by falling; but storms or gales of wind, from whatever quarter, are always indicated by a fall. According to the observations of Fitzroy the river is low when the glass is steady, the gradation at such time being 29.9 English (or 758m.); and he never noticed it to be above 30.3 (769m.) or lower than 29.4 (745m.)

Electricity.

In summer, or indeed it might be said, during the whole year, thunderstorms are very frequent; so much so that perhaps the River Plate experiences more of them than any part of the world. They often cause damage to vessels, houses, and churches; but such accidents are not of such recurrence as one might expect from the vividness and rapidity of the lightning. Señor Azara states that during a N.W. storm on the 21st January, 1793, thirty-seven thunderbolts fell in the district around Buenos Ayres, killing nineteen persons.

Temperature.

It is of common experience to have in the one and same day a touch of the four seasons of the year, such is the extreme and rapid variation in the temperature. And though such sudden changes may affect the health, still it is certain that the climate of these parts of South America is excellent, never suffering from very extreme cold or warmth. In Buenos Ayres the highest thermometer in summer is 30, and the lowest in winter 2 above zero, some rare instances having brought it down to zero: snow is also very seldom seen in these regions. The average temperature of Buenos Ayres is one or two grades higher than that of Montevideo, probably to be attributed to the proximity of the latter to the sea, and some other topographical differences.

Tides.

Captain Heywood says of the tides:—«The tides of the River Plate are far from being regular, the run of the current being so uncertain in velocity, duration, and direction. It is, therefore, impossible to base any calculations upon them, so that the lead has to be used for ascertaining both the soundings and the running. When it is calm weather the currents generally are not strong, and set in or out pretty regular. The currents always vary with the wind; thus, they run eastward along the northern coast of the river when the wind is N.E., but set in, westward, strongly along the southern shore during a S.W. or pampero, the water rising amazingly: both these currents produce the contrary effect on the opposite shores. The river is lowest during N.N.E. or N.N.W. winds, and at such times the current running out is on the south shore, but generally does not exceed three knots an hour; on the northern it is never very strong.» Oyarvide, during a long cruise and many anchorings about Cape San Antonio and Sanborombon Bay, up to Cape St. Mary, gives it as his opinion that the tides at the mouth of the River Plate are generally regular, being only disturbed by heavy storms and high floods, so that the irregularity, caused by the wind, concerns more the inside. He states that in the anchorage of St. Clement the tide rises six feet, running N.W. for flood, and S.E. for ebb. At the Rodeo anchorage it rises six feet five inches, and runs N. for flood and S. for the ebb. Off the toasca shores of Point Piedras it is high water full and change at 11h. 15m., rising six and a-half feet, and running N.N.E. and S.S.W. In the port of Paloma (Cape St. Mary), the tides rise regularly five and a-half feet. At Maldonado, the highest rise during ordinary weather is six to seven feet, running S.E. for the flood and N.W. for ebbing. It should be remembered, nevertheless, that in all these ports if north winds continue long the rise is not so great, and, on the other hand, if strong south winds set in there will be two feet more water, even exceeding that at times, outside winds always causing higher tides.

Tides in Buenos Ayres.

M. Thoyon, of the French navy, remarks that the tides at Buenos Ayres are more regular than might be supposed, and pretty accurately ascertained if the observation of the weather be attended to. He states that the flood sets in generally for five hours twenty-one minutes, and the ebb seven hours five minutes: high water full and change at 7h. 47m., ordinary rise ten

feet eight inches. «Comparing observations,» says the same author, «and taking into account the prevailing winds, which, undoubtedly have an influence, the irregularity of the tides is not so considerable as generally supposed. It will be seen, though the difference be not much, that with outside winds, such as N.E. to S.E., the flood will commence earlier than the calculated hour, succeeded by a proportionate longer ebb: and as ordinarily the flood is of shorter duration than the ebb, it is easy to deduce that the flood will set in earlier and be of longer duration during N.E. or S.E. wind, but it does not much affect the succession of tides. The flood makes in undisturbed during N.W. to S.W. winds, and the ebb is not affected if it does not blow strong from the S.W. As has been stated, the tides are pretty regular with ordinary winds from all quarters, but more so when the wind is E. or N., even when these blow fresh. The wind has more influence at high water, in checking the ebb, than during the flood; therefore when it blows from N.E. round to S.W., the water is dammed in longer, whilst the Paraná and Uruguay continue to discharge, so that the consequence is a much higher water and a later ebb. The reverse of this occurs with winds from N. to W. The difference in the rise of water at two consecutive tides is rarely more than three and a-half feet; but on some occasions, when the wind has been the same for several days, the difference has been known to be ten or eleven feet, and with N. and W. strong winds the difference has even been twenty feet—the water falling from thirty feet two inches to ten feet four inches. But these are very rare occasions, and it requires a combination of circumstances to produce them. As a rule, the rise and fall is not more than nineteen feet eight inches, and not less than six feet eight inches, giving ten feet eight inches as the average.»

Low Tides.

Very low tides are occasioned by strong winds from N.W. to S.W. In 1792 such a wind lasted three consecutive days, and the consequence was to leave the great River Plate nearly dry in most parts. During the Independence War an extraordinary event happened in this respect: the river was so low that the Spanish squadron anchored in the outer roads blockading Buenos Ayres were left aground, and the bank between the two roads appeared dry out of the water; the Argentines seeing this passed over some artillery to attack the squadron, and opened fire on a brigantine which was almost on her beam ends; but that moment the water began to

rise, and they had to retire. So fast indeed did the flood flow in that, by the time the artillery got back to cross the inner roads, only the horses' heads appeared above water. Señor Azara remarks :—The River Plate may be considered a gulf of the sea, though it preserves the freshness of its water twenty-five or thirty leagues below Buenos Ayres. The strong tides of the southern coast do not prevail here, and the water does not rise or fall according to the floods in the river, but is mostly affected by the winds, thus E. or S.E. wind will cause an additional rise of seven feet.

General Movement of Waters.

In regard to this M. Duperier remarks :—«Two causes affect the movement of the waters of the River Plate; one is the proportionate strength and duration of local winds, the other, it is not certain, but presumed, is attributable to the prevailing winds, whether along the north shore or from the south at the mouth of the river. Easterly winds, and the adjacent points, will always cause the water to rise along the whole river; northerly winds produce low water in the left channel, and high water in the right channel. Winds from W. to S.W. will cause the water to fall in the whole river, as far as the Ortiz Bank, except in a part near Colonia, where the water rises in the left channel. It is true that the extent of this rise or fall will depend much on the force of the wind, but the pressure of such a mighty body of water is sufficient to move the current from one channel to the other. Respecting the rise and fall which are without any apparent local cause, it may be said they are common to the whole river. Though these effects are well known, it is not easy to ascertain their immediate cause; if observations were taken at the one and same time at several points of the river—say Montevideo, Colonia, Martin Garcia, Buenos Ayres, and the south extremity of the Ortiz Bank or Point Indio—it might be possible to arrive at some solution of this phenomena, especially if added to the experience of many years.» As yet, however, the pilots of the river are content with knowing by experience that always when fresh northerly winds blow, or N.W., even also N.E., the river falls considerably, and the current runs to the S.E. and S.; and when pamperos or S.E. winds prevail, then the river rises, and the waters run S.W., or N.W., according to the channel. But there are occasions when, without wind or any visible cause, the river rises and falls considerably. It may be these are owing to high tides out at sea, or perhaps to floods in the two great affluents, the Paraná and Uruguay; if the latter, then fresh water ought to flow in the

centre of the river, leaving the shores to brackish water. The movements of the water depends also on the shiftings of the breeze. However, by attending to the rising and falling of the river, and noting the direction of the current, the change of weather can be predicted almost to a certainty. Before S.E. wind, running along the shores, the river begins to rise in the roads of Buenos Ayres. Many hours before a pampero sets in, and sometimes a whole day in advance, the water rises in the port of Montevideo. When the waters make eastward, shunning the northern shores, then N.E. winds may be expected. A S.E. or S.W. gale may be expected if there is a rush of waters in, and the actual rise of water will indicate more or less the force and duration of the approaching storm: it has been known to rise twenty-one and a-half feet. The lowest river is always with the wind from N.N.E. or N.N.W. which produces an outward current, felt the strongest along the southern shore, but seldom exceeding three or four knots an hour: ordinary tide currents are from one to one and a-half knots an hour. Within the harbor of Montevideo, if the water rises rapidly when a strong pampero blows, it continues so for two or three hours, and then as rapidly retires, producing a current against the wind, which in its turn causes a cross sea very annoying to vessels, especially those near the mole. During N.E. breezes the waters run up along the northern channel, but it has the inverse effect in the opposite channel. With the wind from N.E. to S.E. the waters run in a westerly direction, causing a slight rise as far as the meridian of Montevideo, but much more so above the banks inside the river.

Currents.

As has been stated, these are not regular within the Plate, generally following the direction of the wind. Many times they indicate in advance a coming wind: thus, if the water rises longer than during ordinary flood, and it is calm, or wind from N. by way of W. to S., then a N.E. or S.E. may be expected.

Pilots.

These are taken in at Montevideo if the vessel calls there, or at the lightship off Point Indio if she enters the Plate alone. There are always pilots in the lightship ready to board any vessel making signal for such. Though these parties are experienced and acquainted with the channels,

captains should not always place blind confidence in them, but keep a vigilant look out, consulting their charts, and taking all precautions with the lead, &c., whilst passing the most dangerous channels. Hence, these pilots are looked upon more as advisers than trusty guides; therefore, when the position of a ship is doubtful, and it is seen the pilot is not fully up to his business, then it is better to let go the anchor at once. Yet the rate of these pilotages are high enough, caused probably by the incomplete directions respecting the hidden dangers of the river, its uncertain and irregular soundings, as well as the fear of the traditional pampero. But up to Buenos Ayres or the Hornos Islands the depth of water is such that vessels drawing eighteen feet may ascend in safety by paying attention to the general directions given. It is safe and advantageous to let go the anchor anywhere the lead indicates soft bottom, and the pilots avail themselves of this very often.

The Route from Montevideo to Buenos Ayres.

Since the establishment of lightships off Point Indio and the Chico Bank, this route is easy enough. Nevertheless all foreign ships take in pilots, more especially those drawing sixteen feet four inches of water, as the channel in some places is narrow and tortuous, particularly at the S.E. extremity of the Ortiz Bank. It must be borne in mind also that these banks, which impede the navigation of the Plate, are continually shifting and altering in their forms and depths, hence they cannot be known for a certainty except by the pilots, who have to sound and ascertain the channels continually in conducting ships under their charge. Vessels drawing less than ten feet of water may cross the Ortiz Bank anywhere, coming from Montevideo to Buenos Ayres, as there is always ten feet eight inches over it. As a rule, when the lead gives a soft bottom mixed with sand, it is indicative of approaching a bank, and the harder it gets the nearer is the bank. Care should be always taken to have the anchors ready to let go at any moment. There are three channels between Montevideo and Buenos Ayres,—the North Channel, the Middle Channel, and the South Channel. The North Channel is between the northern shore of the river and the Ortiz Bank, and only vessels of fourteen to fifteen feet can navigate it. The Middle Channel, which is formed between the Ortiz and Chico Banks, is the deepest, and therefore the most frequented. The South Channel is between the southern shore and the Chico Bank, and is available to vessels of sixteen feet. To pass through the North or South Channels there should

be a steady breeze, aft or on the quarter, hence they are only used by coasters, if it can be helped.

The North Channel.

If circumstances oblige a vessel to take this channel, and supposing the starting point to be three or four miles S. of the Cerro, it should steer W.S.W. for a time, endeavoring to ascertain the run of the current. To clear the Panela Rock, which should always be passed on the starboard side, keep the light of the Cerro nothing to E. of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ E., until it is in line north and south with Point Espinillo, then put the helm to W.N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N., so as to avoid the shoals of Santa Lucia and the Barrancas de San Gregorio. Approaching Point San Gregorio, which is the extremity of the high land, much care should be taken with the soundings. If more than twenty-nine feet of water is found, it shows the vessel to be near the flat to the west of this point, and she should be put to port until the water shoals to twenty-three or twenty-five feet, then put her head to N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W., the Point bearing E.N.E., distant eight miles. Steering N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. the water will gradually diminish to eighteen feet in front of Point Cufre, which should be passed within about two miles. When this point bears N.E., put the ship's head to W, keeping a moderate distance from shore, until the west point of Sauce is made, which is easily distinguished by the trees crowning its top. Once here, to give a good berth to the rocks called the Pipas, which are in mid-channel, and partly above water, and to pass in shore of them, the coast must be approached pretty near, until the rocks bear a point and a half or two points to port; then follow the edge of the Ortiz Bank according to soundings, until Colonia appears about W. by N., and the vessel then bears for the city. The soundings, which have been uniform at about eighteen feet, will now deepen to twenty-nine feet in the narrow channel between Point San Pedro Alcántara and the Pescadores Bank. Making Buenos Ayres whilst steering W.S.W., or somewhat more S., twenty-one feet of water will be found in the Outer Roads.

The Middle Channel.

Before establishing the lights off Point Indio it was necessary to make out that point for certainty before attempting either the Middle Channel or the South Channel. Although the facilities which the soundings and the

nature of the bottom indicate are very great, still the land is so low hereabouts that this lightship is a great boon to those navigating the Plate, and forms an excellent starting point for both channels, either at day or night. The first thing after leaving the roads of Montevideo is to make for this lightship, steering W S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ W.; but the currents in this part of the river are such that the bearings of the Cerro should be carefully watched as long as it is in view, until the lightship be made out, and the ship's course be thus ensured. The soundings are also a good guide. Soon after leaving the roads twenty-three and a half to twenty-five feet will be found, and whilst the depth remains nearly uniform at that, it shows the channel is well kept: if it diminishes to twenty feet and less, then the vessel is falling on the verge of the Ortiz Bank; whilst on the other hand, if it deepens to twenty-nine feet, it indicates a drift towards Sanborombon Bay. In each case the currents should be carefully considered in any alteration of course. Having proceeded thirty-five miles on this course, the lightship will appear, and a vessel can bear down on her to pass on either side, or take in pilot, if one is required, as this is their station. After passing the lightship, put the ship's head to N.W., so as to pass between the New Bank and the shoals forming off the Argentine shore, meanwhile watching for the steep edges of the Ortiz Bank to the N. of the Chico. On this course the water should deepen from about twenty-five feet to twenty-nine and thirty-five feet, afterwards very gradually shoaling. This shoaling, and the hardening of the bottom with sand, indicate the proximity of the banks in the narrow part of the channel. If with this N.W. course the soundings are uniform, not exceeding twenty-three and a half feet, it shows that a strong current has set the vessel towards the Chico Bank: in that case steer N., even a little E. to it, if it is thought the bank is very near, until the lead gives twenty-nine or thirty-four feet as mid-channel: once in that water the ship's head should be put to N.W. again, as the steep edges of the Ortiz Bank have to be avoided, continuing on the same course until the next lightship on the Chico Bank is made out. This lightship is anchored in twenty-one feet of water, off the N.E. extremity of the Bank, and should be left on the port side. If from some cause or other this lightship is unavailable, or cannot be made out in thick weather, then great care should be taken with the soundings, keeping close to the edge of Ortiz, but marking well the nature of the bottom. If the vessel is in the direct channel for Buenos Ayres, and in the parallel of the Ortiz Bank with the N. extremity of the Chico Bank, then the lead will give twenty-three, twenty-nine, and thirty-five feet of water, with soft bottom, diminishing gradually as the Santiago and Lara Banks are approached, and continuing

so to shoal until the roads of Buenos Ayres are reached. The northern edges of the Chico Bank are very uneven and «lumpy,» hence care should be taken to avoid them. If thirty-nine feet or more water is found hereabouts, it shows the position to be more S. than the extreme N.E. point of the Chico Bank, and therefore necessary to move more N. in order to avoid the Bank. If, on the contrary, the water does not exceed thirty-five feet, it indicates the edge of the Ortiz Bank to the northward of its parallel with the point of the Chico Bank, and the ship is therefore to be put for the Argentine shore until mid-channel is reached. This lightship off the northern point of the Chico Bank is a great acquisition for navigating the Plate by the Middle Channel: it is anchored in twenty-five feet of water, distant thirty-four miles N. 45 deg. W. from Point Indio lightship in direct line.

The South Channel.

In entering this channel it is requisite to make out the lightship off Point Indio, which, as has been stated, is anchored in twenty-five feet of water, between the said point and the S.E. extremity of the Ortiz Bank, and forty-three miles from the port of Montevideo. If circumstances are such that this channel is preferable to the middle channel, run along the Argentine shore, keeping a soft bottom with the lead until rounding the point at Bay of Barragan. In the first part of the run the New Bank must not be forgotten; its proximity will be indicated by the shoaling of the soundings, and the mixture of sand with the soft bottom. The bearings from the lightship, however, if that be made out rightly, will insure a safe passage here. Following the southern coast of the river, and keeping with the edge of the tosca shoals which fringe it, the lead will indicate tosca and soft bottom alternatively, and nearly equal soundings. In this manner the south channel must be crept along until the church of the Magdalena bears S. 28 deg. W. On the southern extremity of the Chico Bank, as well as along its edge there are twenty-three feet of water, hard bottom; but running N.W. and S.E. there is a strip on which no more than eighteen feet of water will be found, though the bottom is soft, and it forms a narrow channel with the shore. Therefore, to be quite secure, this channel, which is near the Chico Bank, should be avoided, keeping as near shore as possible for the draught of the vessel. If Point Atalaya bears S. 40 deg. W., it is then pretty certain that the vessel is not in the channel, and should be kept off until twenty-three feet is obtained, so as to clear the Santiago and Lara Banks, and this depth should not diminish until abreast of Quilmes, the same river giving

nineteen or twenty feet in the roads of Buenos Ayres. In place of following the Argentine coast, after emerging from the south channel proper, perhaps the safest course is to steer N.W. until the Ortiz Bank is approached, and then take a course for Buenos Ayres direct. This is by far the best course if the destination be Colonia or the Hornos Isles.

Beating from Montevideo to Point Indio.

If it is necessary to tack after leaving Montevideo, care should be taken to avoid the dangers lying at the mouth of the river, such as the English Bank, the Archimedes, the Ortiz, and the shoals off the right shores of the river. The soundings and the nature of the bottom will indicate clearly the localities of the banks, and with such guidance there should be no fear to beat the distance to Point Indio.

From Point Indio to Buenos Ayres.

More difficulties present themselves, and more attention is necessary in beating from Point Indio to Buenos Ayres. For a while, between these two points, unless the running is at least six knots an hour, the current should not be attempted to be stemmed, at least if it runs more than one or one and a-half knots. If the current runs strong, and the vessel does not make much way, it is better to come to anchor, and wait for a more favorable opportunity—change of wind or current. After passing the lightship the first tacks should be towards the Argentine shore, so as to clear the New Bank, at least if the draught of the vessel permits it being crossed. It is quite safe to beat here if the lightship is always kept bearing somewhat E. in the outward tacks, until a tosea bottom is felt, which shows that the N.W. point of the bank is being crossed; then the tacking may be prolonged to the Ortiz Bank up to twenty-one feet of water, returning to a similar depth in shore. It is not so uneven or broken on the edge of the Ortiz Bank as it is on the tosea ledges lying along shore, therefore even a little less water on that bow may not be dangerous, still it is better to keep the same water, so as to avoid any outlying lumps of the bank. In this manner a vessel may beat past the New Bank to the S.E. extremity of the Chico Bank. When in the vicinity of the latter bank, six or eight trees in the neighborhood of Magdalena will appear, and while these bear S.W. quarter S. a vessel may beat without fear. It will be noted now that more water will be found on the starboard side, running along the edge of the Ortiz Bank, than when making shore on the port bow. When the ombú

trees referred to bear S.S.W., it shows the position to be in the channel between the Ortiz and Chico Banks: they may be seen from the round-top of an ordinary vessel before the Chico Bank is reached, but from the edge of the Ortiz, say in twenty feet of water, they cannot be seen,—a vessel must be in mid-channel, and the weather clear, before they can be made out from the mast-head. Once between the Ortiz and Chico, a vessel may beat towards the former up to twenty feet without any fear; but should not approach the latter any nearer than twenty-five feet, as its edges are very steep. When it is calculated the vessel is in the narrowest part of the middle channel, great care should be taken, the ship put about immediately if after the lead gives twenty-nine feet the next throw be two feet less. The shoaling of this bank is rather abrupt—giving twenty-three feet at first, then eighteen feet at a second cast, and the next eleven feet, with hard bottom: the rapid shoaling renders the Chico the most dangerous bank in the River Plate, and being uneven in its edges, and leaving but a narrow channel between it and the Ortiz, the working of a ship past its dangers is a difficult task. Having passed this, and tacked across the channel, the soundings will be found at thirty-nine and a-half feet, which, when shoaling to thirty-two or twenty-eight and a-half feet, shows the proximity of the Santiago and Lara Banks: still the port bow may be kept to the Argentine shore until twenty-three feet is reached, which will be nearly abreast of Quilmes: perhaps only twenty-one feet will be found, but if the bottom be soft black mud the channel is good. Once up to this point a couple more tacks will reach the outer roads of Buenos Ayres. Inside the road perhaps it will be necessary to take one or two short tacks, to bring the vessel to a good position, but not less than two feet of water should always be under the keel.

ADVICE.

After all, it must be remembered, that all such book instructions as have been given as to the routes to Puenos Ayres are mere indications for extreme cases, and for such unforeseen circumstances that no others are available—such, for instance, as the removal of either of the lightships off Point Indio or the Chico Bank, from some cause or other; or during thick weather, when no marks are visible; or if full confidence cannot be placed in the pilot on board. Otherwise, it is not advisable for any foreign captain, unless of much experience, and well knowing the landmarks, to attempt the passage to Buenos Ayres, or outward, without the assistance of a practical pilot. It should also be borne in mind that in a great estuary like

this, where the currents run in such different directions, the formation of the banks is always changing, and with them the channels; hence it becomes necessary sometimes to alter the position of the lightships, from which it will be seen that the bearings and directions given can only be approximately relied upon, as the results of the then latest surveys published. More may be confided to the soundings, and the lead should always be kept going: the depth, and nature of the bottom, with careful reference to the chart, are, moreover, the best guides the pilots have.

THE AFFLUENTS OF THE PLATE.

The requisite knowledge for navigating the Uruguay and Paraná being only attained by practical experience, the distances on these rivers only are given here:—

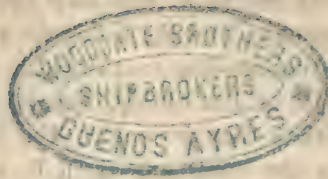
The Uruguay.

	Miles.
From the roads of Buenos Ayres to Point Gorda, at the entrance of the Uruguay,	55
« Point Gorda to the Rio Negro,	30
« Rio Negro to Guauguaychu,	23
« Guauguaychu to the Arroyo China,	40
« Arroyo China to Paysandu,	12
« Paysandu to Concordia,	62
« Concordia to Salto,	9
« Salto to the town of Belen,	30
« Belen to the Rio Mirinaí,	48
« Mirinaí to the Rio Ibicui,	160
« Ibicui to the town of La Cruz,	16
« La Cruz to Santo Tomé,	48
« Santo Tomé to the Pass of Concepcion,	66
« Concepcion Pass to San Javier,	21
« San Javier to Salto Grande, 4 miles below Pepiri,	121

The Paraná.

The distances of the various ports of call on this river from the roads of Buenos Ayres are as follows:—

	Miles.		Miles.
To the Paraná Guazu,	55	To Esquina,	456
« San Pedro,	145	« Bella Vista,	572
« San Nicolas,	181	« Corrientes,	642
« Rosario,	223	« Salto de Apípe,	780
« Paraná,	321	« Salto de Guairá,	1,070
« La Paz,	406		



S. S. "City of Brussels"

SECTION C.

CHAP. I.

THE PROVINCE OF BUENOS AYRES.

THE territory of the province is not very clearly defined: it is supposed to include all the area bounded on the N. by Santa Fé, on the W. by Mendoza, on the South by the Magellan's Straits, and on the E. by the La Plata and South Atlantic. Meantime the Indians are undisputed owners of immense regions in Patagonia and the Pampas, and the settled districts of Buenos Ayres hardly exceed 70,000 square miles, which is little more than the extent of England, while the Pampas and Patagonia cover a superficies of 440,000 square miles. Part of this latter territory, at present wholly useless, is claimed by the province of Mendoza, and also by the Republic of Chile. The general appearance of the country is that of a vast plain, covered with grass or thistles, and almost destitute of trees. In the north there are numerous arroyos which fall into the Paraná; these have their origin in swamps or «cañadas,» and sometimes dry up in summer time, but the rivers of Del Medio, Arrecifes, Areco, and Luxan are permanent water

courses: in the south we find some large rivers, viz., the Salado, which runs for 250 miles, from W. to E. and falls into the estuary of the La Plata near Cape St. Anthony; and the Colorado and Negro, which may be regarded as the Indian frontier-line southward. Among the tributaries of the Salado are the arroyos of Las Flores, Tapalquen and Azul, which give their names to the districts they irrigate. The Rio Negro has its origin in the Andes, crossing the continent from E. to W., and is navigable almost the whole course. Further south is the Chupat river, where the Welsh colony is established. Among the minor streams of the south are the Chapaleofu, Tandileofu, Aapaleofu, Vivorata and Arroyo Grande, of sweet water, and the Pantanoso, Quequen-grande, Quequen Salado, Cristiano Muerto, Carmelo, Mulponleofu and Sauce Grande, which have a brackish taste, being impregnated with certain salts. There are numerous lagoons or lakes scattered over the various districts; like the rivers, some of them dry up in the hot season; they are mostly of sweet water, and invaluable for the use of the flocks and herds: the lakes of Chascomus, Bragado, 25 de Mayo, Encadenadas, Laguna de los Padres, and Mar Chiquita are the most important. The only lines of hills are those in the southern Indian country, viz., the Sierra Vulcan, Tandileofu, Tandil, Huesos, Tapalquen, Sierra Tinta, Chapaleofu, Azul, &c., which rise near Cape Corrientes, run 200 miles inland in a WNW. direction, and are lost in the Pampas: further south are the Curra-malal, Guanini, and Sierra Ventana, which stretch out about 100 miles. The Sierra Tinta is famous for superior marble. Among natural curiosities is worthy of mention the great rocking-stone of Tandil.

The population of the province, exclusive of the city of Buenos Ayres, is returned as 319,773 souls, in the following order—Argentines 247,325, Spaniards 18,332, French 14,594, Italians 13,768, English 12,449, Germans 2,339, Indians 6,966, others 4,000. These returns are pretty correct in an official point of view, since they include all foreigners' children born in the country, under the classification of Argentines. If, however, we be permitted to count the families of foreign settlers as belonging to their nationality we shall find the estimates thus:—

Argentines,	180,000	—	English,	35,000
French & Basques,	40,000	—	Italians,	30,000
Spaniards,	30,000	—	Germans,	5,000

The natives may be said to occupy themselves exclusively in the care of horned cattle and breaking-in horses. They are intelligent, obliging, and hospitable, but fond of gambling and horse-racing, and the lower classes are entirely devoid of education. Their manner of life gives them little

respect for a laborious and well-organized state of society; and as the laws have hitherto afforded the «paisano» no other privilege than a life of perpetual military service, either on the frontier or in the civil wars, the result has been to demoralize the rural population. The French and Basques are found in a variety of callings—inn-keepers, artisans, shepherds, brick-makers, bullock-drivers, &c.: they are industrious and honest, seldom failing to realize an independence, and well-liked by their neighbors. The Spaniards are sometimes shopkeepers, sometimes shepherds, chacreros, &c. The Italians are often found as pulperos or travelling huxters, and they have little shops here and there through the country. The English may be subdivided thus—Irish 30,000, Scotch, Americans, &c. 5000: the Irish have, for over 20 years, formed the bulk of the sheep-farming community, and to them is in a great measure due the staple wealth of the country; they are mostly found in the N. and W. where they own large estancias, and their attention to the education of their children is an honorable characteristic; each district has its own Irish clergyman, its lending library, and its racing club. The Scotch seem to prefer the Southern camps: there are flourishing communities in the districts of San Vicente and Chascomus, where many of the estancias will call for our special attention in the tour of the campagna. The Scotch settlers were originally men of humble fortunes, but thrifty, well-informed, and laborious; it is not surprising that success has attended them. There is a Scotch chapel near Quilmes, and another on the Adela estancia near Chascomus. Of Englishmen properly so called there are very few in the camp, but we shall have to visit one or two wealthy English estancieros. North Americans are fewer still. Germans are scattered widely, some as shop-keepers, others as farmers, and the latter have some of the finest establishments in the province.

In the last century the sole industry of the country consisted in killing horned cattle for their hides. Of late years the sheep business has sprung up rapidly, and attained colossal dimensions. The country is well adapted for rearing innumerable flocks, and when the frontier is once securely fixed along the Rio Negro we may look for further expansion to this industry. Agriculture has some drawbacks, particularly that of want of hands, but it is making unprecedented progress in those districts connected by river or railway with the capital: the wheat crops, especially, are abundant and remunerative. The official statistics of stock are as follows:—sheep, 60,000,000; cows, 6,000,000; horses, nearly 2,000,000. This gives an average of 200 sheep, 20 cows, and 6 horses to every inhabitant, a proportion that will not be found in any other country of the globe.

The province is divided into 72 partidos, which, with their population, are as follows:—

Partidos.	Population.	Partidos.	Population.
San José de Flores,	5,435	S. Andres de Giles,	2,834
South Barracas,	5,250	Villa Luxan,	10,292
Zamora,	1,255	Pilar,	4,313
San Vicente,	6,030	Moreno,	2,063
Quilmes,	5,286	Las Conchas,	1,681
Ensenada,	3,140	San Fernando,	4,112
Magdalena,	15,807	San Isidro,	3,649
Rivadavia (new), ....	....	Belgrano,	2,946
Biedma " " ....	....	San Martin,	2,666
Chascomus,	15,590	Moron,	2,914
Ranchos,	7,588	Merlo,	2,003
Guardia Monte,	4,432	Matanzas,	1,313
Cañuelas,	4,933	Tordillo,	2,386
Lobos,	16,409	Tres Arroyos (new), ....	....
Las Heras,	1,670	Castelli " ....	....
Navarro,	11,195	Rauch " ....	....
Mercedes,	8,937	Ayacucho " ....	....
Suipacha (new), ....	....	Balcarce " ....	....
Chivilcoy,	11,664	Tuyú " ....	....
Chacabuco,	6,063	Ajó,	2,922
Nueve de Julio,	3,053	Monsalvo,	9,577
Junin,	1,326	Mar-Chiquita,	3,333
Rojas,	2,615	Loberia,	3,365
Pergamino,	7,042	Dolores,	7,466
San Nicolas,	12,561	Vecino,	1,600
Ramallo,	2,054	Tandil,	2,143
San Pedro,	5,789	Azul,	10,249
Arrecifes,	3,514	Las Flores,	7,863
Salto,	3,478	Saladillo,	5,746
Carmen de Areco,	4,187	Pila,	3,361
San Antonio "	2,394	Arenales,	9,645
Baradero,	4,601	Tapalquen,	2,000
Necochea, (new), ....	....	25 de Mayo,	8,821
Zarate,	3,436	Bragado,	4,222
Lincoln (new), ....	....	Bahia Blanca,	2,168
Capilla del Señor,	4,227	Patagones,	2,300

The principal camp towns are—San Nicolas, on the Paraná, 8,000 inhabitants; Mercedes, a flourishing western town, 6,000; Villa Luxan, surrounded by Irish sheepfarmers, 5,500; Chivilcoy, the centre of the agricultural districts, 3,500; Dolores, in the south, 4,800; San Pedro, on the Paraná, 3,248; Chascomus, the terminus of the Southern Railway, 4,000; Lobos, a busy little place, 5,000; Azul, near the Indian frontier, 5,000; Navarro, another sheepfarming centre, 3,000; San Fernando, a port for coasting traffic, 3,000; Belgrano, a fashionable summer residence, 2,500; Carmen de Areco, in the north, 2,000; Quilmes, famous for its chacras, 2,500; Barracas, where the saladeros are situated, 3,000; Salto, 2,000; Las Flores, 2,000; Magdalena, 2,000; Ranchos, 1,600; Rojas, 1,700; San José de Flores, 1,500; Veinte-Cinco de Mayo, 1,500; Bahía Blanca, 1,500; Patagones, 1,350; San Antonio de Areco, 1,200; Moron, 1,205; Capilla del Señor, 1,152; Pilar, 1,000; San Vicente, 1,000; Pergamino, 1,500; Arrecifes, 1,000; Baradero, 1,000.

As a rule the northern camps are high, and, in dry seasons, exposed to drought: in 1859 a million horned cattle perished, and their carcasses covered the country far and wide. The southern camps, on the contrary, are low, and suffer in wet seasons from a superabundance of water. «The soil,» says an intelligent Scotch writer, «is in general very rich and produces, at certain seasons, luxuriant crops of natural clover, in which horses and cattle may be seen wading knee-deep. Even during a 'seca,' when the camp is as bare as a turnpike-road, the flocks contrive to subsist, though in an emaciated condition, on thistle seeds, which are scattered in great abundance over the ground. The climate is agreeable, and I have seldom seen finer-looking men than Europeans who have resided long in the country, and those of European descent. The spring is the pleasantest season, being neither too hot nor too cold. The earth, too, is covered with a rich carpet of clover and thistles, and looks as fine as any country with such a flat face can do. As summer approaches the heat becomes excessive. The thistles, which before looked like a crop of turnips, suddenly spring up to a height of ten or eleven feet, armed with strong prickles, forming dense jungles impenetrable to man or beast. The appearance of the country undergoes a complete change in the course of a week or two. The horizon, with its known landmarks, is suddenly hidden from view, and one scarcely knows where to steer. About Christmas (midsummer) the thistles are all in full bloom, and soon droop and die. The grass grows yellow, withers, and disappears. Pamperos, tremendous gales from the west, arise and sweep away all remains of vegetation. These hurricanes are so charged with dust and dead thistles that day becomes as dark as night. Travellers

lose all idea of their course, and often wander astray. Even the natives, who possess an instinct like that of the pigeon, make absurd mistakes. Tropical rains fall in winter, and the whole country becomes a swamp. After the rain, however, Nature, like a phoenix, rises from the ashes, and the earth turns green again. Snow may not be seen for a generation, but ice is not uncommon, and the wind is often piercingly cold. The climate is healthy to the healthy, but unsuitable for invalids, especially those with consumptive tendencies.»

Among the animals peculiar to the country is the «biscacho,» which is classed by naturalists among the family of Chinchillidae and order of Rodentia. «Biscachos» are an abhorrence to sheepfarmers, as they burrow the land in all directions, and there is much danger to persons galloping after dark, of the horse stumbling over a «biscachera.» The «biscachos» remain underground during the day, and it is remarkable that a peculiar breed of owls inhabit the same burrows with them. After sunset the traveller will see these strange animals sitting or running about at the mouth of their burrow; but, of a sudden, they utter a strange cry and dive down out of sight. Another curious animal is the «peludo» or armadillo, which burrows in the ground, but leaves no opening behind it. «Peludos» are considered by the natives as a very dainty dish, being cooked and served up in the shell: the flavor is almost too rich and savoury. «Mulitas» are almost the same as «peludos,» and also much in request as an article of food. These animals have such powerful claws that if once they get their head under ground it is impossible to pull them out. In the more distant camps we sometimes hear of wild dogs (perros cimarrones) which go about like wolves, in large packs, doing much havoc among sheep. The «comadreja» is an animal between the weasel and the otter; it is fond of sucking eggs, and has a pouch, like the opossum, for carrying about its young. Rats, mice, and frogs are abundant in all parts of the country; and among venomous reptiles are found the «escuerzo,» a deadly kind of toad, and the «Vivora de la Cruz,» a small snake so called from its having a cross on its head; the latter kind of reptile is very rare. The other animals comprise ostriches, «nutrias,» pole-cats, and tiger-cats: «nutrias» are much esteemed for their skins, in which the Indians carry on some trade. Tiger-cats are about double the size of the domestic animal.

Birds are as scarce as trees in Buenos Ayres, if we except game, which is very abundant: the country swarms with wild duck, partridge, and a species of horned plover, called «tero-tero» from the cry which it makes. There is a kind of hawk or vulture called «chimango,» which picks out the eyes of young lambs; the «carancho» is another kind, somewhat larger,

and both these birds are a kind of scavengers, specially provided by Nature for carrying off the carrion that infests the camps on all sides. Parrots are often found in large numbers. The «Pica-flor,» or humming-bird, is one of the tiniest and prettiest of the feathered tribe; it is no larger than a bee, of the most beautiful and variegated hues, and lives by sipping from the flowers, like a butterfly: there is also the «Hornero» or «oven-bird,» a little larger than a lark, which builds its nest of mud on the fork of a tree; the nest is about the size of a man's head, the walls an inch thick, and almost as strong as a brick.

The botanist will find little to interest him in the Pampas: nevertheless the «pita» or flowering-aloe is a beautiful plant, indigenous to the country. It is usually seen forming a fence in the suburban quintas, and has a fine effect, springing up to a height of 30 feet, and at the base it is surrounded by large prickly leaves, 7 or 8 feet long, and 5 or 6 inches in thickness. The inner substance is a fibrous matter from which some excellent twine has been made. The «tuna» is sometimes confounded with the «pita,» but the former seems rather of the cactus family. The fences formed by these plants have often proved impenetrable even to the Indians. The chief ornament of these plains is the «Ombú,» which casts out its branches to a great extent and affords a cool and refreshing shade; the foliage is dark green; it is invaluable as a landmark, and Don Luis Dominguez has sung its praises in very eloquent strains. Poplars grow abundantly in the south, paradise-trees in the north, and peach-trees everywhere; these last are useful not only for their fruit, but for supplying firewood, and they are cut down every three years. Grapes, figs, and other European fruits thrive here admirably, as also the vegetables in common use in England. In fact nearly all the products of the temperate zones and the tropics are reared with little difficulty other than that caused by the ants. Australian gum-trees acquire a wonderful height and bulk in three or four years, and the Government endeavored, a couple of years ago, to induce the natives to plant it largely. There are many pretty field flowers, apparently indigenous, but the science of horticulture is comparatively new and limited to the commoner kinds of garden-flowers, although the camelias seem much finer than are usual in Europe.

Thirty years ago all travelling in the camp was done on horseback, and the natives still make light of galloping 100 or even 150 miles in a day. «Diligencias» or mail-coaches, when first introduced, were drawn by a dozen horses yoked sideways by a girth or «cincha. The want of bridges over the arroyos often made this method of travelling exceedingly troublesome and tedious. At present there are railways north, south, and

west, traversing the country for two hundred miles, and in connection with them a number of «diligencias,» which renders travelling easy and expeditious. Goods and produce are transported by troops of ten or a dozen bullock-carts, which are ugly, cumbersome, vehicles, built on ponderous wheels; they travel about 20 miles a day; the bullock-drivers urge on the oxen with long goads; these men have a life of extreme hardship, living always in the open air, without other home or shelter than the shadow of their rude waggons.

The Province of Buenos Ayres was an independent Republic from the fall of Rosas, in 1852, till the reconstruction of the Argentine Confederation in 1861; it is now one of the fourteen united provinces, having its own Governor, Legislature, and local authorities, and being represented in the National Congress by two Senators and twelve Deputies. The Governor is elected for three years, and has two Ministers of State, for the Home and Finance Departments. The Senators and Deputies for the Provincial Legislature are elected by the various districts, in the rate of a Senator for every 12,000, and a Deputy for every 6,000 inhabitants: the first sit for three years, the second for two. The judicial authorities comprise a High Court of Justice (from which there is appeal to the Federal Tribunal), the Tribunal of Commerce, District Courts at Mercedes, San Nicolas and Dolores, Justices of Primera Instancia, and the ordinary Justices of Peace for the respective partidos. The administration of the laws is necessarily imperfect, owing to the difficulty of organizing a proper police force in so extended a country, and the want of respect towards the public magistrates: the Justice of the Peace, in the camp districts, is usually a grocer or sheep-farmer, and the Alcaldes and Tenientes often belong to the humblest class of «paisanos.» Each partido has also its municipal board, to which foreigners are eligible. The ecclesiastical division of the province coincides with the judicial, and each partido has its Cura, with one or two assistant clergymen, who are often Italian priests. Public instruction meets with every possible favor from Government, and the various camp-towns boast handsome state-schools; meantime the education of the rural population offers great difficulties, partly owing to the distances intervening between the scattered towns, and still more to the habits and character of the gauchos. The total number of children attending state-schools in the camp is returned at 5,903, in a population of 320,000 souls. The number of National Guards amounts to 32,320, and from these are drawn contingents for the Indian frontier: all foreigners are exempt from this laborious and unpleasant service.

CHAP. II.

LIFE IN THE CAMP.

CATTLE-FARMING.

THE business of horned cattle is almost entirely in the hands of natives, and it formed for nearly three centuries the sole occupation of the Spanish settlers. It seems incredible, and yet it is no less true, that horses and cows were unknown before the time of Alvaro Nuñez, otherwise called Cabeza de Vaca (cow's head), who brought out the first cattle from Spain, A.D. 1541, since which time they have increased so prodigiously as to number several millions, notwithstanding the enormous slaughter, during so many years, of millions of cows and mares, merely for their hides. The rearing of cattle is still extensively carried on, for the saladeros, where the hides, bones, and flesh are turned to account, the trade in jerked beef being very considerable, for the markets of Cuba and Brazil.

Estancias for horned cattle usually vary from one to ten square leagues in extent, while those on the frontier are even much larger; they abound in «pasto fuerte» or coarse grass, which stands the dry seasons better than the meadow grass or trefoil on which sheep are pastured: the former must be entirely eaten down before the fine grasses spring up. The estanciero takes care to select a piece of land bordered by a river, or having permanent lagoons, and as free as possible from thistles, hemlock and burr. In building his house he is guided by his taste or means; a mud rancho costs about £40 to £60, a house of adobes or sun-dried bricks about double the above amount; and sometimes we find luxurious residences that cost over a thousand pounds sterling. The «corrales» are large folds for enclosing the cattle, whenever this is found necessary; they are made of upright posts 7 feet high, of a hard wood called ñandubay, fastened together by means of cross bars and hide thongs, the «corrales» are round in form, and strongly made, so as to hold a large number of cattle;

the gate consists of two or three transverse bars. The «corral» is always near the estancia house. The «monte» or «quinta,» surrounding the house, comprises an extensive peach-orchard, visible several leagues off. In three years peach-trees arrive at maturity, and they serve the double purpose of fruit and fuel, besides making fences. One third of the plantation is cut down at intervals, and planted afresh, and in this manner the supply of fruit and timber is constant and abundant. The staff of an estancia usually consists of a Majordomo, who represents the master, an expert capataz to oversee the peons, and half-a-dozen to twenty peons or servants, according to the size of the estancia; these last earn \$250 to \$350 (£2 to £3) a month; they also get their food—an unlimited supply of beef and some «yerba.»

The stock of an estancia often numbers ten thousand head, divided into herds of two or three thousand each, which two men can easily care. Each herd is gathered up every night to its «rodeo,» an open space, where each animal regularly chooses its own place to lie down; they remain there till after sunrise, when they set off again to graze. Cows calve once a year, heifers as early as two years; they live to about 15 or 20 years of age, and their milk is rich and of excellent flavor. The legs and horns are longer than in English breeds. The stock of horned cattle in the province is set down at 6,000,000 head, and the annual slaughter in the saladeros exceeds half-a-million, independent of the consumption for the city markets. The oxen broken for the plough or bullock-cart are remarkably gentle, and of symmetrical proportions. Formerly there were large quantities of «alzada» or wild cattle, but the Indians have left but few on the frontiers. In seasons of drought cattle sometimes stray hundreds of miles in quest of water, but unless they calve on their new pastures they invariably return to their «querencia» after the drought. Sometimes the cattle are watered by means of a «balde sin fondo,» which raises water from a well, and is worked by a man on horseback; it can water 2,000 head of cattle in a day. Cattle-farming until recently was not considered so lucrative, but, when properly attended to it gives very fair results, say 20 to 30 per cent. on the capital invested. Herds of cattle, from 1,000 upwards, may be purchased at \$60 or \$80 m/c (say 10 to 13 shillings) a head. Land is so dear in the sheep-farming districts that the estanciero has to choose an estancia in the southern partidos of Pila, Vecino, Monsalvo, or Loberia, but he must beware of the western frontier, which is much exposed to Indians. As a rule the business of horned cattle, does not at all suit foreign settlers, although some have in a measure combined it with the care of sheep.

The great season of amusement in camp life is the Yerra or marking-time. All the peons of the estancia, and others from the neighborhood, drive the cattle into the «corrals:» each animal is caught with a lasso by a man on horseback, then tied down, and a red hot iron with the owner's monogram or mark is planted on the poor brute's flank, while a blue smoke curls upward from the smoking flesh: the mark so made is indelible, and this is the way that estancieros distinguish their property, there being no fences or bounds to the various estancias. The Yerra always winds up with a feast of «carne-con-cuero,» or meat cooked in the hide, than which nothing can be more savory; neither coals nor wood must be employed in cooking it, but only bones, and it eats best cold. Horses are marked in the same manner as horned cattle, and when sold must receive the counter-mark of the first owner as well as the brand of the purchaser, which custom sadly disfigures many fine animals. The Gauchos are very clever in breaking-in horses, following a method very akin to that of Rarey; they tie one of the horse's legs, and put him through a tiresome ordeal, then mount him, ride him about a mile, tie him up for a day without food, and before a week the animal is quite tame and broken-in.

Nothing is so wonderful as the dexterity of the natives in throwing the lasso; their aim is almost unerring; they will single out a horse or cow in the middle of a herd and bring him down with unfailing precision. They will also pursue an animal in full chase across the plains, and, when they get sufficiently near, the lasso is swung twice or thrice around their head, then let go, and the moment it touches the runaway cow the horse of the rider stands still, to receive the shock, and down goes the cow headlong on the ground. Another way of catching horses is with the «bolas:» these are three round stones or iron balls, about the size of an egg, covered with raw hide, and fastened to a strip of hide about five feet long. They are thrown much like the lasso, at a distance of sixty or seventy yards, with unerring aim, and, entangling the feet of the pursued animal, bring him to the ground with a violent shock. The Gauchos are also very clever in plaiting bridles of untanned hide thongs, and their great ambition is to caparison their horses with elaborate silver trappings, often worth a £100 sterling. Their own dress is, moreover, tasteful and fantastic: instead of pantaloons they wear a «chiripá» of striped woollen stuff, fitting loosely about the thighs, and exceedingly convenient on horseback; this is fastened by a leathern «tirador» ornamented with silver buttons, and in this, at their back, they stick a knife with silver or leathern scabbard. Under the «chiripá» they wear white cotton drawers with a fringe twelve inches deep: the boots were formerly «botas de potro» formed of the untanned

skin of a colt's legs, leaving the wearer's toes quite bare, and the big toe exactly fitted the little wooden stirrup which they used; but now they are beginning very generally to wear the ordinary boots. Besides the «tirador» they wear a long «faja» or sash of red silk, tied around the waist. The «poncho» completes the dress: it is like a table cover, with a slit in the middle to admit the head, and varying in value from a few shillings to £50; the finest are those made of vicuña wool, woven by the natives of the upper provinces.

The rich estancieros usually live in the city, in great fashion and luxury, leaving their establishments in charge of a «mayordomo,» and going out once or twice a year to see how things go on; they are men of polished manners, good education, and often members of learned professions. Their great fault is an absolute neglect to improve the condition and manners of the «paisanos» on their estates. The «gauchos» live in wretched «ranchos,» of which the rafters and frame-work are stalks of the aloe or canes, the sides are plastered with mud, and the roof is of «paja» or reeds that grow in the lagoons. The furniture consists of a wooden stool or bench, a few horses' or cows' heads that are used for seats, and a cowhide stretched on stakes, which serves as the family bed. The cooking is done in the open air with an «asador» or spit that is stuck into the ground, and a large three-legged pot: sometimes a little oven is built near the «rancho.» The most important piece of furniture, however, is the «recado» or native saddle, which is very complicated and consists of hide-trappings and cloths that as often serve the «gaucho» for his bed; the «recado is a very comfortable saddle for a long journey, but tires the horse more than the ordinary saddle. The ordinary price of a «recado,» complete, is about £5, and the best street in the city to buy it in, is Calle Buen Orden. The business of cattle-farming will receive a great impulse and prove much more lucrative if Mr. Bailey's project succeeds, of importing live cattle from the River Plate into England. Hitherto all efforts in Buenos Ayres to export cured beef for the English markets have failed to create a staple trade. Meantime the exportation of dry and salted hides has kept up a very active business: according to Lennuyeux's tables we find 2,054,824 cow hides exported in the year ending September 12, 1868; this, however, shews a decline of 10 per cent. on the previous year. The export of horse-hides amounted to 104,053, being also less than in 1867. The tallow trade has, however, increased notably: we find 77,188 pipes and 29,233 boxes for 1868, an increase of more than 50 per cent. If the National Government would take the export duties off produce the farming business would be as remunerative as ever.

SHEEP-FARMING.

The Province of Buenos Ayres counts 60,000,000 of sheep, which give a yield of about 3½ a head, or 180,000,000½ unwashed wool. The sheep-farms cover over 40,000,000 acres, being 1½ sheep per acre, and the number of shepherds may be estimated at 60,000, of which at least a quarter are Irish or Scotch, and the Basques also form a large proportion. Buenos Ayres closely competes with Australia for the rank of first sheep-farming country in the world, and wool now forms the great staple of our home production and export trade, the annual value of this item being about £3,000,000 sterling.

Only thirty years ago, previous to the time of Sheridan and Harratt, sheep were of no value; they were what was termed «creole,» and the wool, not being worth the freight to town, was often thrown in the «corral» to make a footing for the animals. Sheep were merely raised for food, and held entirely by natives; they were hardly worth a paper dollar, say fourpence, each. Peter Sheridan was an Irishman, John Harratt an Englishman, and they were the first to import fine sheep into Buenos Ayres, their example being soon followed by John Hannah (a Scotchman), Stegman (a German), and others. As soon as attention was turned to this branch of industry many people took it up, and went out into the camp, beginning with a flock of 500 or 1,000: the Irishmen, in particular, of the *saladeros* of Barracas, who had laid by a little money, bought flocks of sheep at a few pence per head, and laid the foundation of the large fortunes that many of them have since amassed. In 1852 the number of sheep was estimated at 4,500,000. With the refinement of the breed, and the improved attention paid to sheep, a market speedily sprung up for the wool, and sheep rose in value till 1859, when they were worth ten shillings a head. Meantime the Irish farmers had steadily gone on purchasing all lands offered for sale, and paying as high as £8,000 per square league, or twenty-six shillings an acre (being five times the price of farm lands in the United States). They also spent money lavishly in the refinement of their flocks, sometimes giving £150 or £200 sterling for a prize ram of the Rambouillet or Negretti breeds.

Sheep-farming reached its height in 1860, when the flocks counted nearly 14,000,000 sheep; the farmers had made such fortunes that a sheep-fever seized the town-folk, and lawyers, shop-keepers, tailors, saddlers, midwives, &c. embarked in the business. The demand for rented land was so great that «puestos» for a single flock of sheep fetched as much as £80 a year, and the scarcity of hands being felt the farmers

sent home money to Ireland to bring out their relatives. Things went on well for a couple of years, but, on the conclusion of the war in the United States, the price of wool fell, while the depreciation of our currency caused a corresponding rise in wages and all items of farming expenses. The wars of Flores and Paraguay, and the troubles of the interior caused a disastrous increase of taxation that weighed almost exclusively on the sheep-farmers and producing classes, who saw their splendid profits vanish from before their eyes, and sheep-farming henceforward did little more than pay the current expenses. But greater trials were in store for them. The increase of sheep was so rapid, doubling in five or six years, that there were no longer purchasers for the extra stock, nor lands whereon to place it, and the amount of wool being proportionably increased its price suffered a further ruinous decline.

In 1867 the high rate of wages, rent, and provisions, coupled with a fall of nearly 50 per cent. in the price of wool, as compared with 1864, reduced the value of sheep to about twenty pence (\$10 *m*), and, as if to crown the affliction of the farmers, the cholera broke out with terrible virulence, causing the most unparalleled havoc throughout all the partidos. Two thousand Irish perished, including some wealthy estancieros, and in many cases their flocks wandered about the camp, there being no one to claim them.

Since then a season of recuperation has set in. The price of wool has indeed, improved slightly, and sheep no longer offer the prospect of a brilliant venture as in days gone by. Nevertheless a new form of industry has sprung up, in the melting down of sheep for their grease, which has so much enhanced the value of the flocks that sheep have risen to \$20 a head. There are graserias now established in all parts, and it may be estimated that 5,000,000 sheep are melted down per annum.

The following comparative statement will show the steady increase in the export of wool:—

Year.	Bales.
1860-61	60,734
1861-62	67,161
1862-63	88,780
1863-64	96,679
1864-65	130,860
1865-66	150,453
1866-67	155,078
1867-68	180,000
1868-69 estimated clip,	200,000

The increase in the exportation of sheepskins has been still more remarkable, viz.:—

Year.	Bales.
1860-61	8,888
1861-62	10,766
1862-63	13,960
1863-64	16,733
1864-65	19,855
1865-66	20,761
1866-67	29,924
1867-68	40,035

It is to be remarked that in 1868 no fewer than sixteen new tanneries were established, which reduced the exportation of sheepskins by at least 2,000,000 skins.

Sheep estancias are generally smaller than those for horned cattle, say from half-a-league to four or five square leagues in extent. Some Irish estancieros have only half a square league (say 3,000 acres) with a stock of 10,000 sheep; others have estates of four or more square leagues, stocked with 100,000 sheep and upwards. A flock usually counts 1,500 to 3,000 sheep, and is managed by one man on horseback. The flocks of different estancias, and even those of the same estancia, are distinguished by the «señal,» or peculiar mark cut in the ear. The pastures of the sheepfarms consist of fine grasses, which, in summer, are protected by forests of gigantic thistles from the scorching heat of the sun. Frontier lands are found unsuited for sheep, till the coarse grasses have been eaten down by cattle. There are certain poisonous herbs, such as «romerilla» and «mio-mio,» which sometimes cause great losses in flocks. Sheep also die from eating white clay, or getting the leech in low, marshy, lands. The scab is a great plague to sheep-farmers, but of late years the application of extract-of-tobacco is used with much success as a remedy. Perez Mendoza recommends 1℔ of tobacco juice to five quarts of water, to be rubbed daily to the parts affected, or a mixture of 4℔ of grease with 1℔ of turpentine and $\frac{1}{2}$ ℔ of Swedish tar, applied in like manner: for prevention of the disease he prescribes good pastures, clean corrals, and well ventilated sheds.

The profits of sheepfarming are a subject that has exhausted the calculations of the oldest farmers and the ablest economists in the country. At one time it was generally believed that a flock of sheep, minded by the owner in person, gave 80 or 100 per cent. per annum. The increased expenses and depreciation of the currency brought down the estimate to 60 or 70 per cent. Subsequently, the burthen of new taxes, and decline

in the wool markets of the world, reduced the gains to barely 20 per cent., and this is probably the maximum figure that can now be quoted.

New comers going into the sheep business consist of—1st. Men of capital, say from £5,000 upwards; 2nd. Those who have a few hundred pounds; 3rd. Those who have nothing at all. The first class may calculate as follows:—

Half square league of land,	£3,000
10,000 sheep at 3s.	1,500
House and corrals,	100
Carts, horses, implements,	200
Provisions and wages, 1st $\frac{1}{2}$ year,	200

This will give—first year—

1,500@ of wool at 8s.,	£600
2,000 sheep for graseria at 3s.,	300
	—£900

Deduct—

Three peons, at £30,	£90
Groceries, &c.,	100
Personal expenses,	160
Rams,	100
	—£450

Nett profits,

Leaving a nett gain of 9 per cent on the capital invested, independent of the increase of the flock; and this will go on in arithmetical proportion at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum.

The majority of intending sheep-farmers, however, are young men with a sum of, say £300, and their best manner of proceeding is this. They arrange with some estanciero to buy the half a flock; and enter with him as «medianero.» Thus a 1,000 sheep at 3s. cost £150, leaving the remaining £150 for the expenses of the first year; the estanciero sometimes goes half in the cost of rancho and corrals; he gives the «medianero» a piece of ground about ten «cuadras» by 10 (say 400 acres) rent free. The flock will comprise 2,000 sheep, the «medianero» minding the estanciero's half, in return for the land. This is the safest way to begin sheepfarming, as the estanciero gives every assistance to the beginner; and, in this way, many of our wealthiest proprietors commenced life. The partnership usually lasts three years, in which term the flock doubles, and the «medianero» has 2,000 sheep of his own, and looks out for a piece of rented land whereon to settle. The term «medianero» signifies «on halves,» as all

expenses and profits are shared evenly between him and the estanciero. The «medianero» system obtains only in the province of Buenos Ayres, where it has proved most advantageous for all parties: it is not known in Entre Rios or the Banda Oriental.

The 3rd class of immigrants, by far the most numerous, and formerly the most successful, consists of those who land on our shores without a shilling. They begin as peons or servants, hiring with some estanciero at £30 a year (\$300 per month) to mind a flock of sheep; they are found in horse and provisions, sleeping either at the estancia house, or in a rancho on some part of the land. Their life is a rude one, especially if quartered in a rancho with no other company than a couple of dogs. They have to cook and wash for themselves, digging a little quinta in the intervals of recreation when the sheep are quietly grazing; but, every now and then they have to run up the ladder at the gable-end of the rancho, to see that the sheep are not straying or in danger of mixing with a neighbor's flock. For such contingency a horse is always kept ready saddled at the «palenque,» near the entrance to the hut. If the shepherd has a taste for reading he can take a book with him into the camp, and lying down beside his horse pass the day in this manner. Sometimes the «puestero» or shepherd does not return home till sundown, when the sheep are always shut into their «corral,» which is a square or oblong enclosure fenced with American pine. At night he makes his lonely supper and lies down on a rude couch, not unfrequently a pile of sheepskins, to rise again before day; and this is the round of a «puestero's» life.

It often happens that when a man has proved himself to be steady and sober, the estanciero gives him a flock of sheep on thirds, that is the peon gets one third the increase of the flock and the same proportion of the nett proceeds of the wool. Under ordinary circumstances the «tercero,» as he is then called, becomes owner of half a flock in three or four years, and then he goes into partnership as «medianero,» in the manner already described. The «tercero» has no expenses of any kind, being found in everything by his employer, and he often lays by a little money each year, as he spends not much on clothes or the comforts of life. A stranger is astonished at the rudeness of this mode of life, especially when he finds, as often happens, that the occupant of the hut is a man who has moved in fashionable society. The life of a «puestero» is certainly healthy, and free from the gnawing cares of city life, but its great drawback is solitude. The poor man, of humble origin, who has his wife and family around him, is comparatively comfortable and happy; but, a man of reduced fortune

can seldom reconcile himself to the idea of asking a woman of his own position to share the rude home of a rancho.

At present camp-life is much improved, in comparison with ten years ago. Railways have placed the principal estancias within a day's journey of town, and the little comforts or necessities of life are easier procured. Most of the sheep-farmers are subscribers to some of the London or Irish papers, and the Irish clergymen have established lending-libraries in the various districts for the use of their parishioners. In every Irish house, too, is found a tutor who teaches the children the rudiments of education; these tutors are paid from £3 to £5 a month and treated as a member of the family, for which reason young men arriving here without money often hire in this capacity. The Irish shepherds, living within four or five leagues of a town, gallop in on Sunday mornings to attend at Mass, and get their copy of the *Weekly Standard* with all the latest news from town. Those who live within easy reach of a railway station get the daily papers, and the taste for reading has wonderfully increased in the last few years. The Irish clergymen resident in the camp are always attentive to the spiritual wants of their countrymen, and also act as friends and counsellors, since they enjoy universal confidence. It is right to add that the Irish sheep-farmers are very liberal to their pastors, even in times of comparative distress.

The Scotch sheep-farms in the south are well worthy of especial notice: the neatness, style, and good order, both in the estancia house and all its belongings, are very pleasing to the visitor. You are sure to find also, a good supply of books, and on Sundays the farmers attend their kirk, although having to ride some leagues. The Scotch were among the first to start as sheep-farmers, and some of them to-day are richer even than the wealthiest Irish, but their numbers are relatively small. In the better class of Scotch and Irish estancias the traveller will find all the comforts and many of the luxuries of civilized life; but should he be benighted and obliged to stop at the humblest rancho of one or other of his countrymen he is sure to find the warmest-hearted hospitality. It is no less true that the poorest gaucho is by nature most hospitable; he will give the stranger the best his house can afford, and gladly cede his only bed to the weary traveller.

Within the last two years a number of courageous Englishmen, of good family and education and with a capital of a few hundred pounds each, have established themselves on the Indian frontier, some beyond Azul, others in Patagonia, with the object of raising sheep and cattle. Nothing can exceed the hardship of such a life, and it is not without its dangers also.

For immigrants of this class it may be well to advise them that the Government of Buenos Ayres gives a free grant of a square league of land for a certain term of years, on the expiration of which the settler receives a right of «enfiteusis,» which has always a marketable value; and if the settler wish to become absolute owner of the land he has the preference as a purchaser at the price fixed by law and on long credits. There are always many wealthy natives owning land in the frontier partidos, who are only too anxious to find steady foreigners to take sheep and cattle in partnership, and for this the immigrant needs no capital. The reason why foreigners are in such request for this purpose, is, that natives are liable at any moment to be taken up for military service, and the condition on which the estanciero receives these frontier lands from Government is to keep a house and certain quantity of stock on the ground.

Life in the camp has a peculiar charm for young men emancipated from the office desk. The free air and bounding steed give an elasticity and vigor both to mind and body that cannot be expressed. The savory taste of meat cooked on an «asador» surpasses the finest cookery of European «chefs-de-cuisine.» The complete liberty of thought and action induce a buoyancy of feeling that compensates for all the hardships undergone; and it is a strange fact that young men who have distinguished themselves in universities and ball-rooms get quite an affection for camp-life. This, however, wears off when one reaches about 30 years of age; we get tired of the camp and its dull monotony, and sigh for the refinement and comfort of city life. There are many people in Buenos Ayres who are so disgusted with all remembrances of camp-life that they can hardly be induced to mount a horse or even visit an estanciero friend. Fortunes have been made in the camp, and are still to be made in minding sheep: one thing is requisite, the shepherd must stick to his sheep as close as possible, live very economically, and abhor the sight of a «pulperia.» We shall now begin our tour through the partidos, beginning with the north, and in every instance the distance will be calculated to the chief town or centre of the partido.

CHAP. II.

THE RIVERINE PARTIDOS.

FROM BELGRANO. TO SAN NICOLAS.

Belgrano.

THIS partido does not properly form one of the camp districts, being merely a suburb of Buenos Ayres, and as such it has been described in Section B. It is bounded on the North and East by the River Plate, on the N.W. by San Isidro, and on the S.W. by San Martin and Flores: it covers two square leagues. The Municipality is composed of six members, and has a revenue of about 500,000 m/c. per annum. The property valuation amounts to 25,000,000, against 12,000,000 in 1862. The state-schools are attended by 76 boys and 89 girls. The largest land holders are—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
James White,	278	Colin,	35
L. Oliver,	100	L. Torres,	40
L. Saavedra,	110	Tantillan,	24
R. Sebastiani,	67	Castillo, family,	74
F. Plowes,	53	Cabrera,	30
M. Lebrero,	23	Munita Bros.,	40
Blas Gonzalez,	80	L. Goya,	20
P. Calderon,	42½	Scher,	20
Corbalan,	29	John Malcolm,	18

There are fifty smaller chacras, making, with the above, a total of 10,000 acres under tillage. There are also 227 handsome country-seats, of which the principal are—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
P. Berger,	\$300,000	L. Walter,	\$150,000
Estèves Sagui,	200,000	Machain,	140,000
Francischelli,	250,000	Lardapide,	120,000
Serna,	250,000	Ciappi,	120,000
Solanet,	150,000	Caprile,	200,000
P. Guerin,	150,000	Acosta,	150,000
R. Newton,	150,000	Chateauneuf,	200,000
Mrs. F. Gowland,	150,000	Haycroft,	200,000
Morillo,	250,000	Tobal,	216,000
Leslie,	140,000	Santamaria,	150,000
Camino,	150,000	Sanguinetti,	160,000
B. Costa,	180,000	Rocha,	150,000
A. Clas,	125,000	Petrocchi,	230,000
Groteon,	150,000	Piran,	150,000
Hartenfels,	150,000	J. M'Donnell,	124,000
Iturraspe,	150,000	Elias,	180,000
F. Miró,	150,000	Calvo,	140,000
Piaggio,	250,000	Caulein,	200,000
Ravier,	220,000	Bosch,	140,000
Amorins,	150,000		

This partido includes Palermo, the former residence of Rosas. (See Section B).

San Isidro.

Situate five leagues North of the city, is alike remarkable for the beauty of its situation and the fertility of its grain chacras. Along the barranca overlooking the River Plate there is a succession of charming quintas, which make San Isidro a most fashionable residence in the summer months. The largest land-holders are—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
L. Uriarte,	480	M. Elias,	53½
M. Aguirre,	240	Posas,	53½
Azcuenaga Bros.,	187	G. Rua,	60
A. Pacheco,	160	B. Márquez,	48
L. Martinez,	106½	M. Perez,	48
J. de Luca,	104	A. Castex,	40
Saenz-Valiente,	58½	M. Gutierrez,	40
Señora Omar,	86	M. Baptista,	37
V. Escalada,	80	M. Álvarez,	34

There are numerous handsome residences surrounded, each, by a few acres of pleasure-ground, and the following are the principal:—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
T. Anchorena,	\$250,000	Haedo,	100,000
S. Campodonico,	250,000	Velasquez,	120,000
Uribelarrea,	250,000	Wineberg,	48,000
B. Saenz-Valiente,	200,000	P. Anchorena,	180,000
Juan Cano,	200,000	Ituarte,	130,000
Mrs. Mackinlay,		C. Saenz-Valiente,	160,000
E. Marquez,	130,000	E. Anchorena,	180,000
M'Lean,	150,000	Selaya,	100,000
Paravicini,	150,000	Segismundo,	200,000
James Brittain,	150,000	Vernet,	40,000
Elortondo,			

Among smaller holdings are those of Denby, Moore, Hunt, Yateman, Nelson, Tornquist, Sinclair, and other foreign residents. The total property valuation amounts to 16,000,000, against 14,000,000 in 1862. The quintas and chacras are mostly cultivated by Basques and Italians, who make much money in supplying Buenos Ayres with hay, wheat, maize, and vegetables. About thirty years ago the district was much infested with gaucho highwaymen. The partido formerly comprised four square leagues, but on the formation of Belgrano it lost half its territory. It contains at present 1506 chacras, covering about 10,000 acres, all under cultivation. The farming-stock consists of 4126 horned cattle, 1,267 horses, 760 sheep, and some swine. The population of the partido is set down as follows:—Argentines 2793, Italians 459, Spaniards 202, French 150, English 45—Total, 3,649. There are—a Justice of Peace, 8 Alcaldes, 42 police, and 380 National Guards.

The village of San Isidro was founded in the beginning of the last century, and has a very ancient look. The church stands on a high ground, with a plaza in front and a fine view of the coast. Araujo relates that, in the year 1706, the inhabitants of all the territory lying between Las Conchas river and the Arroyo Maldonado being destitute of religious service, a gentleman named Domingo Acasuso, who was a Spanish captain and a native of Madrid, resolved to build a chapel here in honor of St. Isidore; for this purpose he endowed the parish with a pension of \$2,000, and a site of ground 300 yards x 6,000. The chapel was inaugurated on Pentecost Sunday 1708, its first curate being Rev. Fernando Ruiz Corredor. There are—an inn, 3 drapers' shops, 28 smaller stores, and about 600 inhabitants, who have a Municipality composed of four members. There

is a good public school, attended by 72 boys and 46 girls. The Northern Railway places San Isidro within an hour's journey from town, and the morning papers are delivered in time for breakfast. The post-master is Don Emilio Sarraacan. There is no doctor resident in the place. The beach offers good bathing, but it is dangerous to ride along the coast owing to quicksands. The boundaries of the partido are—N.E. the River Plate, N.W. San Fernando, S.W. San Martin, S.E. White's chacra (Belgrano). Contribucion or property tax, \$64,000. Justice of Peace, Don Manuel Omar; Curate, Rev. Diego Palma.

San Fernando.

Situate seven leagues from Buenos Ayres, is, like San Isidro, remarkable for quintas and chacras. It is bounded on the N. and E. by the River Plate, on the N.W. by the Rio Las Conchas, on the W. by San Martin, and on the South by San Isidro. It includes, moreover, a number of fertile islands in what is called the Delta of the Paraná. San Fernando is important, no less for its agriculture than for its coasting trade: it has a good and safe port, where many river craft put in with cargoes of fire-wood, posts, &c. Mr. Hopkins' project of canalising the Capitan will prove most beneficial, and a branch railway will be run down to the river's side, where wharves are already in construction. The arrivals in coasting-craft for the year amount to 262 vessels with an aggregate of 6,664 tons cargo. The islands are mostly in a high state of cultivation, having been sold or ceded a few years ago to a number of industrious Frenchmen, Basques and Swiss. In M. Brunet's island there is constant employment for over 100 laborers, who raise abundant crops of potatoes and other products. Such is the extraordinary fertility of these islands that we are told of pumpkins which take two men to carry them, and potatoes weighing as much as 10℔. The quinces also grow to an enormous size, and the rapidity with which poplars, peaches, and other trees spring up is incredible. It is thought these islands would be well adapted to the growth of rice. The islands of President Sarmiento, Señor Piñeyro, &c. are also well tilled. The inhabitants of course go about in boats, and there is a school attended by 100 children who travel every day in the same manner.

The town of San Fernando has 3,000 inhabitants and the rest of the district 1,112, but this cannot be supposed to include the islanders. The extent of the partido is about 2 square leagues, of which nearly one-half is under agriculture. The largest proprietors are—

THE RIVERINE PARTIDOS.

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
Thomas Valle,	300,000	Anjel Croza,	150,000
Ybañez,	400,000	Crisol,	130,000
A. Conde,	190,000	Lima,	200,000
G. Espinosa,	180,000	P. Villaruel,	350,000
Señora Castro,	120,000	P. Vela,	180,000
Justo,	145,000	P. Almandos,	130,000
George Drabble,	200,000	L. Almandos,	120,000
Pietranera,	150,000	Catelin,	200,000
J. Rodriguez,	150,000	Salguero,	150,000

There are smaller holdings, viz., those of Russell Shaw, Billinghamst, Bletcher, Delfino, Fusoni, Gloede, Hughes, Pringles, and other foreign residents. The total property valuation exceeds 16,000,000 against 15,000,000 in 1863. The church was founded in the beginning of the present century, but a larger one is being constructed in the plaza. There are two good hotels, and omnibuses ply to the railway station: at the Hotel National, kept by Monsieur Manet, the traveller can procure horses or carriages for excursions. The club gives balls on Sunday evenings in Summer. The town has its own Justice of Peace and Municipality, and boasts a resident doctor, an apothecary, 6 midwives, 5 bakers, 2 silversmiths, 3 blacksmith, 5 carpenters, 1 chandlery, 3 tailors, 1 saddler, 2 hairdressers, 6 billiard-tables, 4 draperies, 21 small stores, and 189 houses. There are 256 National Guards, and the police authorities number 5 Alcaldes, 20 Tenientes, and 12 policemen. The farming-stock comprises 439 cows, 338 horses, 2445 sheep. The population returns give—3,305 Argentines, 116 Spaniards, 77 French, 458 Italians, 156 English, &c. Besides private schools there are those of the State, attended by 59 boys and 69 girls. San Fernando has long been a favorite resort in the hot season, and since the opening of the Northern railway it is placed within easy reach of the city. Justice of Peace, Don Adolfo Insiarte; Curate, Rev. Bernardo Repetto; Postmaster, Don Luis Lan.

Las Conchas.

Between the rivers Lujan and Las Conchas, a territory of about six leagues, once was located the tribe of Guacunambis consisting of six hundred families, but the exact locality of this Indian settlement is unknown. In the year 1614 the Spaniards kept a special guard here to stop smuggling from Colonia, and in the year 1720 the first settlement of the present town was made. The principal landholder at that time was Don Juan Ponce de Leon, who out of his own pocket defrayed the expenses

of building the church. Owing to the village being built on the margin of a swamp its progress was very slow. In the year 1820 Don Lorenzo Lopez built a Capilla, the Government having contributed \$10,000. The wealthy native families of Buenos Ayres have country residences in Las Conchas, and in summer it is one of the gayest places about town.

Nothing can be pleasanter than a boating excursion in the Luxan, Conchas and Tigre rivers, which are overshadowed by large willow-trees, and bordered on either side by elegant country-seats. Getting out of the train at the Tigre terminus we take a boat and descend the stream. On the right is the Capitania, a wooden house on poles, similar to the shanties and shops that make up the Tigre village. Zurueta's quinta adjoins the boat-house of the English yacht club, and further on are nestling in the trees the cottages of Uparaguirre, Aguirre, Urioste, and Dolz. On the left is Canedo's, and lower down a stylish building, much resembling a church; this is the summer residence of Don Eduardo Madero. In high floods all about here is a swamp. Marshall of Barracas has a yard for building steamers on the right, and next comes Vivanco's quinta; pulling out into the wide river of Luxan, there is a charming view on all sides, and here is always a number of steamers lying up for repairs. Ascending the Luxan river, which was anciently called Rio de Corpus Christi, we pass, on the left, the site marked out by Rubio and Foley for the terminus of the new line and the landing wharf of the proposed port: there is always over 10 feet of water here, even when the Tigre is almost dry. Tigers are sometimes seen here, and Mr. Milberg has caged two, which he trapped on his own ground: they descend the Paraná in seasons of «*creciente*,» on the camelotes or floating islands of brushwood.

The Tigre is the port for embarkation in the up-river steamers, which lie close along the wharf; at the railway station M. Champion keeps an excellent restaurant. There is also a good hotel on the Conchas side, kept by Mr. Cramer: ferry boats charge 1\$ m/c for going across. Mr. C. has good wines and boats, and horses or waggonettes may also be procured. Adjoining the hotel is the dockyard of Stevens and Kay, where you will sometimes see as many as 120 operatives at work, building or repairing steamboats, iron launches, &c.; this is a great establishment, begun in 1868, and they can build a small steamer in three to four months; the machinery is from Glasgow; Messrs. S. & K. have another foundry in the city at Paseo Julio. If we take a boat to ascend the Tigre we shall find a succession of delightful country-seats. Those of Garrigos, Tejedor, and Gonzales Moreno are princely, and after Cobo's, Del Campo's and Balbin's we pass under a picturesque wooden bridge; now the river takes a bend,

and on the right is a charming cottage belonging to Dr. Alvarellos, after which come those of Lynch, Balbin, Majesté and Schultz. On the right is the Lavadero of Señor Zumaran, which does a great business in washing wool and sheepskins; next is another cottage of the Lynch family, and further is that of Dr. Scrivener, the only English resident in these picturesque but swampy regions. During the cholera of 1867 the Doctor lent such valuable service, gratis, that the Municipality of Las Conchas presented him with a gold medal. Mr. Lawson's quinta comes next: all these sequestered cottages have bathing-houses, stairs down to the water's edge, and a boat. The Tigre is navigable about a league further, but the only places we meet are Joffi's cane-cutting establishment and a deserted house that was built a couple of years ago by half-a-dozen German clerks as a summer residence. Returning to the Tigre station we remark in its vicinity the quintas of Romero, Martinez, and Anciso.

The village of Las Conchas preserves some very ancient-looking houses with corridors and tile-roofs, which remind us of the time when this was the limit of the Indian frontier northwards. The church is very neat, with an antique portico: the altar and sacristy were put up, in the last century, at the expense of a pious lady named Magdalena Bonelo, and the first Mass was celebrated by a friar named Goytia. There are numerous quintas in the neighbourhood belonging to the following families—Rocha, Bulrich, Calzadilla, Carrega, Acuña, Cebey, Castrelo, Alcorta, Comi, Schleeper, Ibañez, Muñoa, Hernandez, Brilli, Acevez, Arana, and that of Señor Muñoz is remarkably fine. The vegetation about here is rapid and luxuriant: in summer the quintas are full of the richest fruits and flowers.

Las Conchas is about 24 miles from town, and will shortly be connected with Buenos Ayres by two lines of railway; the Western branch-line will start from Floresta and cross the Tigre near the wooden bridge; it seems the Northern Railway also proposes to throw a bridge over to Las Conchas island, and make its terminus likewise on the Luxan river.

The partido is subject to frequent inundations, being mostly below water level, which accounts for its amazing fertility. It is intersected by two large rivers; the Luxan and Las Conchas. The former has its rise in the camps beyond Mercedes, and the latter is formed by the confluence of the arroyos La Choza and Durazno, near the town of Moreno. The Cañada Escobar and arroyos Tigre, Garcia, Las Tunas, &c., also form a part of the water system of Las Conchas, where they unite with the Paraná.

The Partido covers three square leagues, which are chiefly under cultivation. The largest landed proprietors are, John Milberg 1200 cuadras, Anjel Pacheco (whose place is valued at \$1,000,000 m/c.), and

Villamayor 1188 cuerdas: these are estancieros, and there are nine smaller estancias. The stock comprises, 6,250 cows, 2,650 horses, 57,369 sheep. The boundaries of the partido are—N. and E. the Paraná, S. San Fernando, and W. Pilar.

The population is set down at 1,681, including 373 in the village; the nationalities are thus distributed, 862 Argentines, 435 Italians, 169 Spaniards, 32 French, 179 English and others, 1 Indian. There are 21 general stores; also a Justice of Peace, Municipality of four members, 60 National Guards, 4 Alcaldes, 17 Tenientes, and 9 policemen. The State school is attended by 25 boys and 52 girls. The total property valuation is 7,000,000, against 3,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion or property tax, \$28,000. Justice and Postmaster, Don Damaso del Campo; Curate, Rev. Geronimo Rebagliata.

Zarate.

Situate 16 leagues N. of Buenos Ayres, on the banks of the Paraná, is the first sheepfarming district we meet. It was formerly part of the Capilla del Señor, till 1856. The land is very high and ill-suited for sheep, but good for grain crops. Of late years the plantation of cereals has been actively increased, and we find a large number of chacras. The Partido is supposed to cover 20 square leagues: there are 59 estancias and 140 tillage farms. The land of the former is valued at \$600,000. that of the chacras at nearly double this figure, per square league. The total extent under tillage is 20,000 acres.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Lima, family,	.... 4	Murray,	.... 1/8
Latorre, family,	.... 3	Gelves,	.... 1/4
Insua,	.... 3 1/2	Hermida,	.... 1/2
Soler,	.... 1 1/2	Castex,	.... 1/8
Acebey,	.... 1/2	Pujol,	.... 1/2
Saavedra,	.... 2	Romero,	.... 1/4
J. Fox,	.... 1/4	Barrios, family,	.... 1/2
J. Celery,	.... 1/2		

The estancias of Lima and Saavedra occupy the «rincon» formed by the confluence of the Areco river and Cañada Honda with that branch of the Paraná called Rio de Baradero. The La Torre property is called Las Palmas, from an old Jesuit establishment of the same name which existed here in the last century: the ruins of the chapel of the Fathers are still to be seen; there are also a fine plantation of «tala» and an excellent port for

coasting traffic. The Insua estancia is S.E. of the river of Areco, and reaches to the boundary of Capilla del Señor. Mr. Fox's place is close to the Arroyo Pesqueria, about two leagues S.W. of Zarate.

The Irish population is about 100. The town, although a river port, is very poor, having only three houses valued over \$60,000: those of Silvano, Soler, and Saavedra. Don Constancio Silvano owns nine houses: his property is valued at \$500,000m/c. Mrs. Cullen has also a house.

The importance of Zarate consists in its river trade, and during the Paraguayan war it was the great port for shipping horses for headquarters. The steamers up and down the river call here twice a week each way. The Italian boatmen do a large business in firewood, charcoal and ñandubay posts. Zarate probably takes its name from the Vice-roy Zarate, and there are still numbers of the inhabitants who bear the same name. The town has a new church, a State school, 4 billiard-rooms, 3 inns, 20 shops, and a cockpit. It stands on a barranca 60 feet over the river, and the port is in low marshy ground, where Sig. Silvano has built a wharf. The state-school is attended by 53 boys and same number of girls. Zarate has a Justice of Peace, Municipality, 4 Alcaldes, 16 Tenientes, 10 policemen, and 470 National Guards. The population of the district is returned as—Argentines 3,185, Germans 5, Spaniards 49, French 72, Italians 86, English 39; total 3,436: of this number the town has about 700. There are 836 houses in the partido. The stock is estimated at 32,139 cows, 13,832 horses, 390,970 sheep, and 6,679 swine. The landed property is valued at 15,000,000, against 8,000,000 in 1861. The principal chacras are those of Anta, Acebey, Conde, Balvidares, Gaetan, Palacios, Sosa, Silvano, Vidal, and Zarate. Post-master, D. Luis S. Martinez. A few leagues below Zarate is Port Campana, where Dr. Costa has a fine estancia. Near this point several affluents fall into the Paraná, viz.: the Arroyo Romero and La Cruz, Arroyo de Moujan, and the Pesqueria. The river Areco and Cañada Honda empty their waters a little above Saavedra's estancia. Some of the islands fronting Zarate are settled on, with cattle and sheep farms. This branch of the Paraná is called «de las Palmas,» from the old Jesuit port above-mentioned. Contribucion tax, \$60,000. Curate, Rev. Nicolas Aquerone; Justice, Don Romulo Nazar.

Baradero.

Situate 27 leagues N. of Buenos Ayres, is a large sheepfarming department, with a superficies of 41 square leagues.

There are ninety-two estancias, of which the principal are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S Leagues.
Castex, family,	11	Rosell,	$\frac{1}{2}$
P. Lynch,	8	Rodriguez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
San Martin, family,	3	Alsina,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Edward Wallace,	1	Troncoso,	$\frac{1}{8}$
George Macome,	1	Salas,	$\frac{3}{4}$
M. O'Rourke,	$\frac{1}{2}$	P. Whelan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
M. Brennan,	$\frac{1}{2}$	J. Murtagh, ...	$\frac{1}{8}$
Camaños, family,	1	Pereyra,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Casco, family,	1	Piñero,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Sierra,	1	Murínigo,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Passo,	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Gelves,	$\frac{1}{8}$
S. Gomez,	1	Figueroa,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Tapia, family,	1	Cabriotti,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Magallanes,	1	Villaruel,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Medina,	$\frac{1}{2}$	M. Connaughtin,	$\frac{1}{2}$

The lands are well stocked, the returns showing an average of 1,000 cows, 250 horses, and 13,000 sheep to the square league. The Castex estancia lies on the north bank of the river Areco, and comprises six distinct properties, belonging to Ramon, Pedro, Fermin, Feliciano, Mariano, and Indalecia Castex: this fine estate is also watered by the Arroyo Doblado, which falls into the Areco river. The estancias of Lynch and Wallace are on the Cañada Honda, but Lynch has a second estate on the Rio de Arrecifes. Macome and Gomez are also on the Arrecifes river. The San Martin lands extend southward from Baradero to the mouth of the Areco river. The O'Rourke estancia is near the Cañada Bellaca; and Murtagh and Whelan are further south, near Cañada Los Toros. There are many Irishmen on rented land, besides medianeros, &c., and the total Irish population is about 300.

The estancia land is valued at \$400,000 per league. The stock consists of 40,863 cows, 9,573 horses, 328,680 mestiza sheep, 6,032 refined do., and 10,848 creole do.; 1,840 swine. There are 696 chacras let out to tenants; each chacra is 200 yards wide by 200 long; the annual rent of each is \$90, and they can be purchased out and out at an upshot price of \$600. The quintas are 100 yards long by 100 wide; there are 284 of these occupied by tenants, at an annual rent of \$30 each. The boundaries of the partido are—N. the Paraná and San Pedro, W. the river Arrecifes, S. San Antonio de Areco and Zarate, and E. the Paraná. Opposite Baradero is a difficult pass in the river, called Nueve Vueltas.

Baradero owes its importance to the Swiss Colony, established here in 1856, which has been so prosperous that some of the colonists have amassed as much as £8,000 sterling, and others almost as large fortunes. These industrious settlers arrived here without a shilling and fortunately met a good friend and protector in Colonel Gainza, who induced the Municipality to grant them chacras of 3 cuadras each at a nominal price. They have about 10,000 acres under tillage, and supply the various river ports with butter, potatoes, &c. (For full details of the colony see page 31, Section A).

Baradero is one of the oldest towns in the province: it was founded in 1616 by the venerable Luis Bolaños, a Franciscan friar, who accompanied St. Francis Solano in his perilous missions among the Guarani, Mbiguay, and Chanas Indians. The chapel was dedicated to St. James, and Padre Valdivia became its first curate in 1628; some time later the parish was incorporated with that of Arrecifes, but again restored in 1781. Although so ancient, it is a poor village, there being only nine houses valued at \$50,000, viz., those of Alsina, Basabilvaso, Cabriotti, Casco, Frumento, Falconieri, Monsalvo, Piñero, and Puppo. Post-master, Don Juan Antonio Alonzo. The Municipality commenced in 1859 a large school-house on the barranca, which remained many years unfinished, but the Government has now given \$200,000 for its completion, and it is intended, moreover, to receive boarders from the neighboring districts. The population of the partido is set down thus—Argentines 3,709, Germans 282, Spaniards 90, French 162, English 95, Italians 242, others 20—total 4,601. There are 139 houses and 780 ranchos, including an apothecary's shop, 2 inns, 10 draperies, 35 stores, 3 brick-kilns, and several timber-yards. The state-school is attended by 122 boys, and 64 girls, besides which there are private schools attended by 61 boys and 59 girls. The land in this partido is considered very good for sheepfarming, although only valued at \$400,000 a league. It is so thickly settled on, that it would be difficult to find any to rent or buy. The Irish farmers have prospered here, and their numbers greatly increased during the last ten years. The landed property is valued at 20,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1862. The partido is well watered, by the Arrecifes river and Cañada Honda, besides having a considerable front on the River Paraná. The steamers call at Baradero twice a week, each way. The Municipality consists of 6 members: there are also a Justice of the Peace, 14 Alcaldes and Tenientes, 14 policemen, and 1,000 National Guards. The port returns shew 343 vessels with an aggregate of 4,205 tons for the year. Municipal income, \$240,000; Contribucion or property tax, \$80,000. In 1867 the Provincial Bank established a branch at Baradero for this district

and the adjoining ones of Zarate and Capilla del Señor, with a capital of \$2,000,000 m/c. Justice, Don Carlos Lynch; Curate, Rev. Francisco Bianchi.

San Pedro.

Situate 31 leagues N. of Buenos Ayres, is another fine sheep-farming district, with an area of 52 square leagues. It comprises 63 estancias, of which the following are the principal:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Llavallol,	3	G. Palacios,	1 $\frac{2}{8}$
José Castro,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Quiroga,	1
Lorenzo Gomez,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Urraco,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Luis Obligado,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Laserna,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Pastor Obligado,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Villar,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Manuel Cobo,	2	Ruiz Diaz,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Bruno Castro,	2	Ex. Castro,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Leslie,	2	Pio Acosta,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Laprida,	1	Roque Palacios,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Villalon,	1	Ruiz Moreno,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Magallanes,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		

There are also four Irish estancias, that of Mr. John Harrington being well laid out; the others are those of Luke Doyle, T. Wheeler, and Thomas Fallon. Besides these there are numerous other Irish farmers, mostly on rented ground, all doing well, viz.: Michael Dogherty, J. Kehoe, Thomas Young, Michael McDonald, J. Cronin, and the Messrs. Finnery, who have 7,000 or 8,000 sheep each. The land is valued at \$450,000 per league: total valuation 21,000,000, against 7,000,000 in 1862; Contribucion \$84,000. There are three square leagues of public or municipal lands, and the Municipality seeks to form a colony like that of Baradero, in «chacras» of 12 acres each. The returns of stock shew, 101,564 cows, 23,185 horses, 7,144 fine sheep, 643,790 mestiza do., 67,840 creole do., and 1,217 pigs.

The Leslie estancia, called Estrella del Norte, may be considered the model one of the north, as regards elegance, comfort and good order. The house is a handsome residence, and stands on a rising ground, surrounded with pleasure-gardens, and the accommodations are in keeping with the hospitable character of its owner. There is a good portion of ground under tillage, and the estancia has permanent water, being bounded by the Arrecifes river: the stock of sheep is large and of superior quality, the peon's huts are neat English cabins, the workshops of the establishment

are large and fully fitted with presses, forge and every requisite for baling the wool on the spot, previous to shipment. There are spacious sheds for rearing of fine sheep, storing hay, &c., and for the shearing of the flocks. The cattle-farm is at the old estancia house, near the Arrecifes river. The estancia forms a «rincon» between the Tala and Arrecifes rivers. The Llavallol estancia has a port on the Paraná, at the mouth of a stream called Las Hermanas, where the steamers call: this is another fine establishment, the owner being a wealthy Spanish merchant, who has spared no expense in all modern improvements. A few leagues lower down is the Obligado estancia, where Rosas vainly attempted to close the Paraná against the English and French fleets. Don Pastor Obligado was the first constitutional Governor of Buenos Ayres after the fall of Rosas: there are several Irish farmers on his estancia. Opposite to Obligado is a large island called Las Lechiguanas; near this is a pass called Tonelero, and the Arroyos Espinillo and Cueros debouch a little lower down. The boundaries of San Pedro are—N. the Paraná and Ramallo, W. Ramallo, S. Baradero, and E. the Paraná.

The town of San Pedro is large, but built in a straggling manner along the barranca, which commands a panoramic view of the Paraná and its numberless islands. There are some 30 good shops, and an inn is kept by Don Martin Pagardoy (agent for the *Standard*), where horses can also be procured. The town has also a church, state-schools, a graseria for melting down sheep, two resident doctors, several brick-kilns, and 3,248 inhabitants. The Rev. John B. Leahy, Irish curate, is about to establish a library for the use of his countrymen of this district, who number with their families about 1,000 souls. Father Leahy has also to attend his countrymen in the districts of Arrecifes, Pergamino and San Nicolás, embracing a territory of nearly 3,000 square miles. The town of San Pedro has 86 rateable houses, the best being those of Mamberto, Molina, Palacios, Molero, Casco, Banegas, Urreta, Quiroga, Aguirre, Telechea, Pardo, Lantero, Gafferot, Camelino, Arrieta, Bibolian, Chacon, Salas, Anese, Belizan, Magallanes, Biancardi, Rubio, Villar, Ruedas, Paredes, Soler, and Quiroga: the house property of the town is valued about \$4,000,000. The population of the district is returned thus—Argentines 4,923, English 340, Italians 182, Spaniards 150, French 124, Germans 7, others 63—total 5,789. There are 254 houses, and 954 ranchos, and 189 chacras. The Municipality consists of seven members, besides which there are—a Justice of Peace, curate, 3 Alcaldes, 9 Tenientes, 11 policemen, and 638 National Guards. Steamers touch at San Pedro almost daily. The port returns for the year shew 254 vessels with an aggregate of 3994 tons.

The state-schools are attended by 60 boys and 52 girls. Post-master, Don Eugenio Arnaldo.

Some of the estancias above enumerated no longer belong to San Pedro, having been incorporated in the new partido of Ramallo; of these the principal are—the estancias of Llavallol, Gomez, Laprida, and Luis Obligado, besides the smaller properties of Olmos and Arias on the Arroyo Las Hermanas. In the above list for San Pedro we have casually omitted the estancia of Demarchi, one and a half square leagues, and Juana Perez Millan, one league, both situate on the Arroyo del Tala. The partido is well watered on all sides, by the rivers Paraná and Arrecifes, and the Arroyos Las Hermanas, Los Cueros, La Tala, Espinillo, and others.

The town of San Pedro is 3 leagues N.W. of Baradero, 13 S.E. of San Nicolas, 17 east of Pergamino, and 11 N.E. of Arrecifes. Between this town and Arrecifes an Irish chapel is being built, under the auspices of Rev. Mr. Leahy. Justice of Peace, Don Facundo Quiroga; Curate, Rev. Martin Pader. Municipal revenue, \$121,000.

Rincon de Ramallo.

This is a new partido, chiefly formed out of that part of San Nicolas adjacent to the Arroyo de Ramallo, where Mr. Lewis Boothe, an American settler, has a fine estancia. Nearly half the large estate of Stegmann has been cut off the partido of Arrecifes to be incorporated with Ramallo, and San Pedro has had to cede in like manner the estancias of Llavallol, Gomez, Laprida, L. Obligado, Olmos, and Arias. The Irish population here is about 100. The land is well watered by the Arroyos Ramallo, Laprida, Las Hermanas, and Seco. Justice of Peace, Don Manuel J. Guerrico, jun. The partido lies between San Pedro and San Nicolas, on the banks of the Paraná, having an area of 33 square leagues, embracing 70 estancias. The stock is set down at 54,518 cows, 16,845 horses, 1,500 fine sheep, 450,000 mestiza sheep, and 30,000 creole sheep. The land under agriculture is estimated at 3,000 acres. Population—1856 Argentines, 97 Spaniards, 36 English, 32 Italians, 30 French, 3 Germans—total 2,054. There are 76 houses and 470 ranchos in the district, including 17 general stores; but there is as yet no town. The Justice of Peace has 5 Alcaldes, 15 Tenientes, and 7 policemen.

On the banks of the river which divides this partido from San Nicolas is a fine flour-mill, which although of recent date, does a large business. It is proposed to erect a bridge over this river, as the passes are

extremely dangerous even in the dry season. Mr. Boothe has placed the district under great obligations by keeping a canoe at the pass for the convenience of travellers, but frequently the canoe has been swept away by the torrents. Land in this district is now scarce, but a few years ago sheep puestos could be had at a very moderate rate.

San Nicolas.

Situate 45 leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, is an important agricultural district, contiguous with the frontier of Santa Fé. Before the formation of Ramallo into a distinct partido, San Nicolas had an area of 38 square leagues, containing 170 small estancias and 651 chacras: of the latter only 120 are rateable. The chief estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues
Acevedo,	1½	Roldan,	1¼
Leonardo Pereyra,	1¼	Fernandez,	¾
Inocencio Pico,	1	N. Guerrico,	½
Ramos,	2	Insaurralde,	¾
Machado,	½	Barrera,	¾
Diego Alvear,	¾	José Rojo,	¾
M. Guerrico,	¾	Castillo,	½

There are not many foreign sheep-farmers, other than Tait, Savage, Boxwill, Mrs. Hogan, Barker, Stickney, Pearson, Barry, Neale Brothers: the total Irish population does not exceed 100. The estancia lands are valued at \$400,000 per league. The returns of stock are—54,105 cows, 11,930 horses, 3,000 fine sheep, 265,000 mestiza do., 69,000 creole do., and 1,526 pigs.

The amount of land under tillage is more than 20,000 acres, and the principal chacras are—

Name.	Cuadras	Name.	Cuadras.
Piñeyro,	1,200	Carranza,	105
Lucio Mansilla,	300	Garreton,	54
F. Robles,	285	Aldao,	90
Lafuente,	192	Quiroga,	52
Salinas,	212	Bardon,	45
Seg. Garcia,	120	Cardoso bros.	122
José Ruiz,	124	M. Pezzi,	70
Machado,	60		

The chacra lands are valued at \$2,250,000 per square league, and, although occupying barely one-tenth, they represent at least half the landed value of the partido.

The city of San Nicolas is a port of some importance, about 14 leagues above San Pedro: it is the second town in the province of Buenos Ayres, with a population of nearly 8,000 souls; it has 350 rateable houses, 25 dry-goods stores, 105 smaller shops, a church, state schools, a mill (the property of Mr. Armstrong), a graseria (belonging to Mr. Hale), and sometimes a small newspaper published weekly. The best houses are those of—F. Gonzalez, Cerruti, Ponce, Bustamante, Contrera, Gijena, Iraurralde, R. Gonzalez, Figueroa, Basaldua, Ramirez, Echegaray, Ibiai, Latorre, Baró, Mallon, Dacombs, Baqué, Fernandéz, Alcarses, Salina, Mansilla, Roca, Alcaras, Cabezas, Pombo, A. Martinez. P. Martinez, and Casenave, all which are assessed from \$100,000 upwards. The house property of the town is valued at 18,000,000.

There are distinct Justices of Peace for the city of San Nicolas and its rural district. There is also a Criminal tribunal here for the Northern districts. The Provincial Bank established its first branch in this town, in 1863: the regulations are similar to those of the parent establishment. San Nicolas is styled «de los Arroyos,» because situate between the Ramallo stream and Arroyo del Medio, which latter is the boundary between Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé. The boundaries of San Nicolas are—the Paraná on the N. and E., the Arroyo del Medio on the N.W. and W., and the Ramallo on the south. After the disastrous battle of Cepeda, in 1859, the infantry of Buenos Ayres made an orderly retreat on this town, and embarked here for the capital. The San Nicolas battalion was accidentally blown up a few days later in the port of Buenos Ayres, on board the Havelock steamer. Notwithstanding the elevated situation of the town it suffered much during the cholera of 1867-68, perhaps owing to the uncleanly condition of the streets. The population of the town and district are set down thus—Argentines 10,056, Italians 608, Spaniards 582, French 499, English 51, Germans 28, Indians 2, others 267—total 12,561. There are 1,225 houses, and 796 ranchos. The Municipality consists of 12 members; there are 16 Alcaldes, 42 Tenientes, 20 policemen, and 1,056 National Guards. San Nicolas possesses great advantages as a port, steamers and coasting-vessels calling here daily, the landing place being about half a league below the town; nevertheless its progress is not so rapid as that of the inland sheep-farming districts. The state-schools are attended by only 100 boys and 81 girls. The telegraph-line from Buenos Ayres to San Nicolas has been recently completed and will be prolonged to Rosario. The total valuation of landed and house-property both for the town and the rural district amounts to 32,000,000, against 17,000,000 in 1862. Contribution, \$128,000. The port returns shew—1821 vessels with an aggregate of 18,982 tons.

There is a club-house facing the public square, which affords hotel accommodation to travellers. The square is neatly laid out and well kept: at times a band plays in the evenings. At Cataneo's store is the *Standard* agency; strangers will obtain whatever local information they may require; also horses and guides. San Nicolas was so long and so frequently the headquarters of the Buenos Ayres army that at one period it boasted of a very respectable trade, but to-day half the fine houses in the streets are shut up, and the place presents the most fallen aspect. The lands are considered as peculiarly adapted for wheat and maize farms.

About 2 miles S. of the town was the encampment of General Mansilla, during the time of Rosas. In former years a saladero was worked to advantage near the port: it was owned by Messrs. Garcia and Botet. A large barraca is kept by Don Segundo Garcia, for receiving hides and wool. Freights to Buenos Ayres, owing to the river navigation, are usually very cheap; produce should not be shipped without insurance.

San Nicolas is about 10 leagues N.E. of the battle-field of Cepeda, 5 E. of Pavon, 1 S. of the Arroyo del Medio, 13 N.E. of Pergamino, and 16 N. of Arrecifes. Justice of Peace, Dr. Diaz Herrera; Curate, Rev. Bartolomeo Cerruti; Post-master, D. Leonor Sanchez.

CHAP. IV.

THE NORTHERN PARTIDOS.

PILAR TO ARRECIFES.

Pilar.

SITUATE ten leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 38 square leagues, and contains 170 estancias, averaging less than a quarter of a league each. The principal are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues
Anjel Pacheco,....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Pablo Lopez,	$\frac{1}{8}$
F. Poncel,.....	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Michael Egan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
J. J. Pinedo,.....	$\frac{3}{4}$	Huergo, family,	2 $\frac{1}{8}$
F. Piñero,.....	$\frac{2}{8}$	Burgos, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$
E. Despau,	$\frac{2}{8}$	A. Alvarez,	$\frac{1}{8}$
F. Aguilar,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. Arnais,	$\frac{1}{8}$
P. Hernandez,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	José Costa,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Beliera, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$	J. Cruz,.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
F. Maderna,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Carrion, family,	1
Ponce, family,....	2	Cufre, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Olivera, family,	1	Robert Kelly,.....	$\frac{1}{6}$
Joaquin Lopez,....	$\frac{1}{8}$	Mrs. Nowlan,.....	$\frac{1}{8}$

The camps of this partido are not esteemed so good as in the neighboring districts of Luxan and Capilla del Señor, yet there are some tracts of land very suitable for sheep. There are but three Irish estancieros in the

district, but there is a large number who have rented land, and the total Irish population is fully 300: they are visited by Rev. J. O'Reilly, who resides at Villa Luxan. Great injury to farming interests is caused by the infinitesimal division of estancia lands, as happens in this partido: it is not uncommon to find a «paisano» with an estancia a league in length, but so narrow that he has to build his house sideways on his land; of course his cattle graze on his neighbors' lands, and the laws afford little or no remedy. Mr. Peter Healy had until recently a very fine «cabaña» of prize sheep, on the road leading to the Capilla. The stock of the partido comprises 22,649 cows, 11,507 horses, 452 fine sheep, 405,992 mestiza sheep, 16,640 creole sheep, 2,051 pigs. This is an average of 600 cows, 300 horses, and 11,000 sheep to the square league. The total amount of land under chacra cultivation is about 800 cuadradas, or 3,500 acres. The estancia lands are valued at \$420,000 per league, the chacra lands at \$650,000. The total landed valuation, including the village, is \$16,000,000, against \$10,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$64,000. The official returns of population are—Argentines 3783, French 218, Italians 108, English 97, Spaniards 105, others 2—total, 4,313. There are 103 houses and 602 ranchos, including 8 dry-goods stores and 31 other shops. Besides the Justice of Peace and curate, there are a municipality of 6 members, 3 alcaldes, 10 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 350 National Guards.

The village of Pilar has 1,000 inhabitants, and is a neat little place, situate on the Luxan river, which is crossed by a fine bridge built by Hunt & Schroeder; this bridge is, however, at times almost inaccessible, owing to the marshes all around. The village stands on a high ground and has a pleasant look. The new church has a turret visible for several leagues in every direction. The streets are twelve in number, but not all built on; many of the houses are very good, the best being those of Echegaray, Melo, Castro, Burgos, Benitez, Bordenaba, Basabe, Franco, Gonzalez, Laballen, Lopez, Luexes, Navarro, Otaran, Ponce, Quinteros, Regueyra, Rodriguez, Rivadaveria, Silva, and Viscayar. The place boasts 3 inns, 2 doctors, 3 schools, and a mill; coaches ply daily to and from Moreno station on the Western Railway. There are twenty-six chacras in the vicinity of the village, where wheat and maize are cultivated. There is one square league of municipal or public lands, between the Arroyo Escobar and the Luxan river. Although these rivers are of permanent water, in dry seasons a drought is often felt where the lands are high and dusty. It is difficult to procure land in this partido. The boundaries are—on the north the Paraná and Capilla del Señor, on the west Luxan, on the south Moreno,

and on the east San Fernando and Las Conchas. The state school of Pilar is attended by 70 boys and 68 girls. Municipal revenue, \$130,000. Justice of Peace, Don Alejandro Diaz Franco; Curate, Rev. S. Guridi; Postmaster, Sor. Ghigliazza.

Pilar is four leagues N.E. of Luxan, 5 N. of Moreno, 6 W. of Las Conchas, and 9 E. of San Andres de Giles.

Capilla del Señor.

Situate 14 leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 18 square leagues, and contains 43 estancias and 49 chacras: of the former the principal are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues
Costa, .....	.... $2\frac{1}{2}$	Sosa, family, ....	.... $2\frac{1}{4}$
Mrs. Delamore, ....	.... 2	P. Pugh's heirs, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
John Fox, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$	Diaz, family, ....	.... 1
James Scally, ....	.... 1	Morales, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
James Gaynor, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{8}$	Castro, family, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
John O'Brien, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Mrs. Cullen (T. Fallon), ....	.... $\frac{1}{8}$
Edward Lennon, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Harrington, ....	.... $\frac{1}{8}$
Managua, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	P. Bustos, ....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Mrs. Tormey, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	J. Castro, ....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Borbon, ....	.... $\frac{3}{8}$	Melo, family, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Ben. Lynch, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$		

This partido is quite an Irish settlement, our countrymen owning half the landed property and most of the sheep; the total number of Irish exceeds 1,000. There are few districts in which they have been more successful than here, and the lands are well adapted for sheep-farming. The Culligan estancia at Monte Nadal, is not included in the above list; it is also a fine property. The partido is watered by the Cañada de la Cruz and its affluents, the Arroyos Romero and Monsalvo. The returns of stock are, 18,146 cows, 13,209 horses, 1,124 fine sheep, 679,344 mestiza do., 6,800 creole do., 2,138 pigs. This is an average of 800 horses, 1,100 cows, and 40,000 sheep to the square league.

The amount of chacra land under cultivation is very large: there are no exact returns, but we may estimate the area at more than a square league, the principal chacras being those of Avalos, Aguilar, Alvarez, Beliera, Burgueño, Barrios, Basabe, Casco, Diaz, Fragosa, James Fox, Gutierrez, Harrington, Martinez, Ortega, Pacheco, Ponce, Roldan, Romero, Sosa,

Santellan, Salaberry, Tapia, Toledo, Tavares, and Urseley. The land for estancias or chacras is uniformly valued at \$500,000 per square league. The total valuation is 15,000,000, against 12,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$60,000. This partido is officially called Exaltacion de la Cruz, but better known by the name of «the Capilla:» the boundaries are—N. Zarate, W. the rivers of Areco and Giles, S. Luxan, and E. Pilar. There is a bridge over the Areco river at Paso de Sosa, near Mrs. Delamore's estancia. Many of the Irish estancias are comfortable, well-arranged establishments, and the quality of sheep is very fine. Lands cannot be obtained here at any price, and the general character of the neighbourhood is one of persevering and prosperous industry. The lands belonging to Irishmen exceed 7 square leagues, or 45,000 acres in extent, and represent \$3,500,000 at the Government valuation. Add to this 500,000 sheep, and we shall have some idea of the success of our hard-working countrymen; all the above-named wealthy estancieros arrived in this country without a shilling, from 10 to 20 years ago.

The village of the Capilla has 1,152 inhabitants, with state-schools, church, juzgado, several good shops, brick-kilns, an English doctor, Irish curate, apothecary's shop, and 52 rated houses; of these latter the best are those of—Lamarque, Larrosa, Mrs. Tormey, Juan Sorano, Padin, Perez, Ordo, Molinares, Insua, Ibarra, Iriza, Furco, Barrios, and Arias. A house has been purchased by the Irish farmers for the residence of their curate. The new church has been built in great measure by the liberality of the Irish sheep-farmers; the works were solemnly inaugurated in 1866 by Archbishop Escalada and Governor Saavedra. The late Mr. Tormey had the intention of building a chapel on his own estancia for the immediate neighbors, but could not obtain the necessary ecclesiastical permission: Darby Tormey was a fair type of the prosperous Irishman in these countries, and acquired a large fortune in sheep and lands, besides valuable house-property, but was cut off by cholera in the prime of life. The Capilla is built on the edge of the Cañada de la Cruz, about 5 leagues from the river Paraná. The official returns of the population for the partido are—Argentines 3,536, English 395, French 125, Spaniards 68, Italians 61, Germans 9, Indians 1, others 32; total 4,227. There are 142 houses and 667 ranchos, including 8 dry-goods stores, and 20 other shops. The Irish clergyman is Rev. Wm. Grennon, whose mission also takes in the partido of Zarate. Dr. Priestly has an extensive practise in this and the neighboring districts. The neighbors of the Capilla have the use of a Provincial branch bank at Baradero. There are 6 Municipal members, 3 Alcaldes, 15 Tenientes, and 12 policemen. The state-school is attended

by 57 boys and 60 girls. Justice of Peace, D. José Sosa; Curate, F. Antonio Romero; Post-master, D. Manuel Montalvo; *Standard* agent, D. Juan Sorano.

The Capilla del Señor is 4 leagues South of Zarate, 7 E. of San Antonio, 7 N.E. of Giles, $5\frac{1}{2}$ N. of Luxan, $4\frac{1}{2}$ N.W. of Pilar, and 10 W. of Las Conchas.

San Andres de Giles.

Situate twenty leagues N.N.W. of Buenos Ayres, was formerly supposed to have an area of forty square leagues, but actually contains only eighteen and three-quarters, which extent is almost entirely under estancias, there being only twenty-two small chacras. The chief estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
D. Tormey's heirs,	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$	D. Flores,	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
F. Monsalvo, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{6}$	F. Casco,	.... $\frac{1}{3}$
R. Bustos, ....	.... 1	F. Maldonado,	.... $\frac{1}{3}$
Doña Pividal, ....	.... $\frac{2}{3}$	J. M. Echevarria,	.... $\frac{2}{3}$
Doña Monsalvo,	.... $\frac{2}{3}$	J. M. Casado,	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Doña Saravi, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$	Doña Lamadrid,	.... $\frac{1}{3}$
H. Riestra, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Francis Duberty,	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Charles Butterfield,	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Pedro Salas,	.... $\frac{2}{3}$
Rodriguez, family,	.... 2	Patrick Wheeler,	.... $\frac{1}{2}$

There are in all seventy-five estancias, averaging a quarter of a league each, and including only three of foreigners. Nevertheless, the foreign residents number at least 400.

The land is rich and well stocked, watered by the Giles river and Arroyo del Suero, and valued at \$500,000 per square league. Cattle have been entirely replaced by sheep, even on the native estancias; but in many places the land is exhausted from over-stocking. Rents are, of course, very high, and this district will not at all suit beginners. The returns of stock are—13,306 cows, 8,414 horses, 325,421 mestiza sheep, 15,900 creole sheep, and 1,550 pigs. This is an average of 600 cows, 400 horses, and 17,000 sheep to the square league. The landed valuation is \$11,000,000, against \$8,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$44,000. The boundaries of Giles are—north San Antonio de Areco, west Carmen de Areco, south Mercedes, and east Capilla de Señor. On the road from Giles to Mercedes the traveller will remark the estancia of Mr. Butterfield, an Englishman long resident in this country. Between Giles and San Antonio

he will pass the establishments of the Wheeler and Morgan families, the second being, however, in the partido of San Antonio.

San Andres de Giles is a poor little hamlet with 950 inhabitants, almost destitute of trade or agriculture. It has no resident proprietors of any wealth, and many of the streets are grass-grown. The church is new, and there is a state school, attended by 38 boys and 55 girls; a few brick houses, interspersed with numerous miserable ranchos, three or four good shops, and a couple of inns, make up the village. There is a resident doctor, and the best business houses are—Picheto's inn, Pelaez's shop, and that of Señor Cuculla. The Municipality will give building lots free. There is no club, but numbers of pulperias and billiard tables. There are eighty-six rated houses, including those of Doña Saraví, Bustos, Monsalvo, Riestra, Arevalo, Lezcano, Quevedo, Tarcetti, Flores, M. Rodriguez, Lopez, Rivarola, Larrosa, Pividal, Acquarone, Pascual Rodriguez, Acuña, Navarro, Silva, Veral, Cutilla, Andrade, Merlo, Casado, and Ordoñez. There are some plantations about the village, mostly of fruit trees, but there are few or no chacras for raising wheat, although a large proportion of the town folk is composed of Italians or Basques. The river of Giles runs just below the town, and a bridge is about to be built over it.

The official returns for the partido are—Argentines 1822, English 207, Italians 121, Spaniards 53, French 46, Germans 2—total 2,251 inhabitants. There are 86 houses and 431 ranchos, including 4 shops and 87 minor stores and pulperias. The partido has 6 alcaldes, 17 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 280 National Guards. Justice of Peace, Don Juan Silva; Curate, Rev. F. Tiscornia; Postmaster, Don Juan Silva; *Standard* agent, Don Fernando Pelaez.

Giles is 4 leagues N. of Mercedes, $6\frac{1}{2}$ E. of Carmen de Areco, $4\frac{1}{2}$ S. of San Antonio, and 9 W. of Pilar.

San Antonio de Areco.

Situate 21 leagues NW. of Buenos Ayres, is bounded on the N. by Baradero, on the W. by Carmen de Areco, on the S. by Giles, and on the E. by Capilla del Señor. It has an area of 26 square leagues, comprising 64 estancias.

There are also two lots of Government lands rented out, 1 square league to Dr. Terry, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a league to Señor Casco. In this partido foreign sheep-farmers are very numerous, holding one-fourth the land and more than half the sheep. The Irish population may be set down at 700. The estancias of

San Antonio are generally small, averaging less than half a square league. The lands are very good, but overstocked, and suffer severely in times of drought; nevertheless a drought is of rare occurrence, and the River of Areco, with its affluents, the Arroyos Lavallen and Chañaritos, as also the Cañada Honda, afford permanent water. Some of the Irishmen above mentioned are very wealthy; the houses of Morgan, Mooney, and Donohoe are comfortable and surrounded by fine peach-mounts. Mr. Chapeaurouge has a very handsome estancia house near the Giles river; this gentleman is a native of Switzerland and a very enterprising man; he is at present experimenting on the production of *Extractum Carnis*, similar to that of Liebig. Most of the native *estancieros* are very poor, except Señor Guerrico, whose fine estancia borders the village eastward. The Justice of Peace reports that there are several estancias a league and a-half long by only a few dozen yards wide. Cattle have almost everywhere made way for sheep. The returns are 40,192 cows, 9,884 horses, 5,730 fine sheep, 411,984 mestiza do., 14,620 creole do., and 980 pigs: being an average of 1,500 cows, 400 horses, and 20,000 sheep per square league. Land is valued at \$360,000 per league. Total valuation 12,000,000, against 8,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$48,000. The returns of population are—1,749 Argentines, 255 English, 182 French, 127 Spaniards, 43 Italians, 13 Germans, others 25; total 2,394. There are 141 houses and 257 ranchos, including 8 shops and 15 small stores and pulperias.

The following are the principal estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Guerrico, .....	.... $2\frac{1}{4}$	H. Gutierrez, .....	.... 1
Morgan, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Chapeaurouge, .....	.... 1
Lanusse & Co., .....	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$	Alegre, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Almagro, .....	.... $1\frac{3}{8}$	P. Figuerroa, ...	.... $\frac{1}{8}$
Michael Duggan, .....	.... $1\frac{3}{8}$	Patrick Hogan, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Casco, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Alfonsin, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Lima, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{8}$	Alen, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
N. O'Donnell, .....	.... $\frac{1}{8}$	N. Gutierrez, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
J. Duggan, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	G. Sosa, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Mooney, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$	O. Molina, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Olivera, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$	Donohue, .....	.... $\frac{1}{8}$
José Martinez, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$	Peter Kenny, .....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$

The village of San Antonio de Areco is an old-fashioned place, founded in 1759 by an *estanciero* named Areco, whose house stood on the site of the present church, and who gave the necessary land for the village. Until recently there lived an old negro, the bell-ringer of the church, who

remembered the first settlement of the place; it was then on the Indian frontier. The village has a pleasant aspect northwards over the river of Areco: the streets and plaza are very irregular, but some of the shops are well-furnished, the best being those of Juan F. Font, Carlos Martinez, Lima, Hurtado, Picheto, Casco, José Martinez, Gonzalez, &c. The old church was in danger of falling and was pulled down, to make room for a new one; the first stone of the latter was laid on January 1st, 1869. A new state-school has been recently built, which is attended by 64 boys and 44 girls. There are two good «fondas,» or inns. There are two blacksmith's shops, that of Don Santiago, in the plaza, being the better one. In some of the drapers' shops English is spoken, most of the customers being Irish farmers. A fine one-arch bridge spans the river of Areco: it cost about \$200,000, mostly subscribed by the sheepfarmers, and a toll is levied of \$5 for a cart and \$ $\frac{1}{2}$ for a horseman. The trade of Areco is very limited. There is a French tailor in the plaza. An English doctor is much wanted, also an English school-master, for the large foreign population of the surrounding country. The resident Irish clergyman is Rev. Felix O'Callaghan, who also attends the Baradero district. San Antonio is hardly progressing, although a new house is built now and then; the streets are very neglected, although the municipal revenue exceeds \$100,000. The population of the village is 1,200. The partido has 5 *alcaldes*, 10 *tenientes*, 12 policemen, and 300 National Guards. Justice of Peace, Don Carlos Martinez; Curate, Padre Rossi; Postmaster, Don Manuel Gonzalez; *Standard* agent, Don Juan Francisco Font.

San Antonio is 8 leagues W.S.W. of Zarate, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ S. of Baradero, 12 E.S.E. of Arrecifes, 13 E. of Salto, and 7 E.N.E. of Carmen de Areco.

Carmen de Areco.

More generally called the Fortin de Areco, is situate twenty-seven leagues W.N.W. of Buenos Ayres, with an area of fifty square leagues: it is bounded on the north by Arrecifes, on the west by Salto, on the south by the new partido of Suipacha, and on the east by Giles. It comprises twenty-seven *estancias*, averaging nearly two leagues each.

This partido was, until a few years ago, shunned on account of its proximity to the Indians; it has now become one of the most thickly populated in the province, and is remarkable for its many first-class foreign *estancias*. The aggregate of lands held by foreigners amounts to twenty square leagues, and the Irishmen of the district are all wealthy and

prosperous. On all sides the traveller meets fine flocks and snug farm houses; most of the land is well watered and suitable for sheep. About a league north of the town of the Fortin we meet the American estancia of Messrs Hale and Spring, one of the finest in the north; it is called Estancia Tatay, from a lagoon of the same name, and the lands are watered by the river of Areco and Arroyo Tatay; the house is built in English style, two stories, with every comfort of home life, and surrounded by commodious farm-yards, sheds, a well-planted quinta, and a large grain farm; the establishment gives employment to a great number of hands, mostly English and Americans, and the proprietors have been the first to introduce the newest improvements of American model farming into this part of the country; the estancia is largely stocked, and covers 25,000 acres. The Dowling estancia is even larger, and was bought a few years ago for the trifling sum of £800, whereas the land is now worth twenty times that figure: the late Mr. Dowling was a saddler in Buenos Ayres, and his sons have inherited a fine property: the estancia house is about four leagues S.W. of the village, close to a lagoon called Los Ranchos, which has also a river of the same name; the lands are in five divisions, called San Miguel, San Luis, Santa Lucia, Santa Rosa, and San José, and there is a second lagoon on the estancia, which goes by the name of Laguna de Quevedo: the Arroyo de Ranchos cuts the estancia into two almost equal portions. No less notable is the estate of Mr. John Duffy, about two leagues west of the town, and the same size as the Hale estancia: Mr. Duffy, during a residence of many years, has steadily toiled upwards to the summit of a sheepfarmer's ambition; not long ago he was a poor puestero in a mud rancho, with a few hundred sheep; to-day he is master of a patriarchal fortune in flocks and herds, and a ride around his estancia would be nearly thirty English miles: the lands adjoin those of the Dowling property, and are situate between the Ranchos and La Guardia arroyos. The estancia next in size is that of Don Patricio Lynch, who has also large estates in Baradero, as we have already seen. Mr. Archibald Craig is an enterprising and popular Scotch farmer, who has a good estancia about two leagues south of the town, near the Guardia arroyo, and between the estancias of Piran and Lezama: Mr. Craig has done many public services to the neighborhood. The estancias of Murray, Mullen, and Kenny are adjacent to the river of Areco, and bounded on the N.E. by Hale's estancia, each nearly a square league. Mr. E. Wallace has a fine property north of the Tatay: it was formerly a portion of the Zapida estancia in Arrecifes. The Piran property is the largest in the district, lying east of the Fortin, and watered by the Arroyos Romero, Gomez, and La Guardia, and the river of Areco. The

stock returns are—27,200 cow, 11,650 horses, 1,000 fine sheep, 600,300 mestiza sheep, 16,820 creole sheep, and 395 pigs; being an average of 500 cows, 200 horses, and 12,000 sheep to the square league. The Irish population is over 1,000, and they have a resident clergyman, Rev. M. Largo Leahy, whose mission also includes Salto, Rojas, and 25 de Mayo. The official returns of population are—Argentines 3,220, English 400, Spaniards 139, French 133, Italians 100, others 145—total 4,187. There are chacras and grain farms to the extent of about a league square. There are 4 alcaldes, 12 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 427 National Guards. The land is valued at \$350,000 per league, but the establishments of Hale, Duffy, Dowling, &c., are estimated at \$500,000 per league. Total valuation \$22,000,000, against \$12,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$88,000.

The following are the principal estancias:—

Name.	S Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Piran,	5	Michael Murray,	1
S. B. Hale,	4	Mrs. Kenny,	1
John Duffy,	4	J. Muller,	1
Melo,	4	J. O'Connell,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Rocha,	$3\frac{1}{8}$	N. Martinez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Dowling Bros.,	$4\frac{3}{4}$	F. Romero,	$1\frac{1}{8}$
P. Lynch,	$2\frac{3}{4}$	Doña P. Romero,	1
J. Stragannon,	$1\frac{1}{6}$	J. Medina,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lezama,	$1\frac{3}{4}$	P. Rodriguez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Archibald Craig,	1	L. Daguerre,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Perisena,	1	E. Wallace,	$2\frac{1}{2}$

Fortin de Areco is a town of 2,000 inhabitants, with a church, state-school, 20 shops and 60 good houses. The best shops are those of Messrs. Moore and Ramos, Antonio Gonzalez, &c., and the finest houses are those of Arganiras, Manila, Ayerdi, Gonzalez, and Vasquez, valued over \$100,000 each. A resident English doctor is much wanted. The Rev. Largo Leahy has been Irish pastor for several years, and is zealous for the improvement of his countrymen: he has established four lending libraries in his mission, viz. at the Fortin, Salto, Rojas, and Chacabuco. The library of the Fortin was founded in 1864, and has 120 members: it receives by every English packet eighteen home newspapers, and is regularly supplied with books of interest for general readers. Father Leahy is also patron of St. Brendan's Literary Society, which gives recitations, lectures, and debates on alternate Sundays. The town also expects shortly to possess a respectable Seminary for training children of Irish parents to commercial pursuits: a suitable

building is in course of erection for this purpose. The Foreign Racing Club of Carmen de Areco has meetings at certain seasons. The Irish neighbors of the Fortin are among the most prosperous and liberal of their countrymen. The town is irregularly built and badly situated, the approaches from the south being sometimes impassable owing to wide tracts of marshy land near the Arroyo de la Guardia. The church and state-schools are new: the latter are attended by 88 boys and 94 girls. Municipal income \$120,000. The Provincial branch bank of Salto answers for this district also. Justice of Peace, Don Melchor Ibarzabal; Curate, Rev. Juan Pietranove; Post-master, Don José San Martín; *Standard* agent, Don Manuel Ramos; Municipality, six members.

The Fortin is $6\frac{1}{2}$ leagues W. of Giles, 9 N.W. of Mercedes, 11 N. of Chivilcoy, 16 N.E. of the Rio Salado, 7 E.S.E. of Salto, 8 S.E. of Arrecifes, and 13 S.W. of Baradero.

Salto.

Situate $3\frac{1}{2}$ leagues WNW. of Buenos Ayres, is bounded on the N. by Arrecifes, on the W. by Rojas, on the S. by Chacabuco, and on the E. by Carmen de Areco. It has an area of 84 square leagues, of which almost one-half are public lands. There are 34 estancias, averaging $1\frac{1}{4}$ leagues each; the principal are—

Name.	S. League.	Name.	S. League.
Dorrego,	13	B. Gomez,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Pacheco,	$6\frac{1}{2}$	M. Blanco,	1
Lanate,	4	J. Fuentes,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
James Bell,	2	Michael Murray,	1
Isaac Blanco,	2	John Hyland,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Ayrala,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Patrick Murphy,	$\frac{3}{4}$
John Riddle,	1	Wm. Murphy,	$\frac{1}{2}$
D. Berrutti,	1	E. Grigera,	$\frac{1}{3}$
B. Sierra,	1	C. Torres,	$\frac{1}{2}$

The progress of this partido is remarkable; it is fast becoming one of the most important in the north. Foreign settlers are gaining ground, the pastures are excellent for sheep, and camps hitherto vacant are being rapidly covered. There are six English estancias, but the number of our countrymen altogether occupied in sheep is very considerable. The Irish population is estimated at 500. The Dorrego estancia, about three leagues

W. of the town, is a great tract of country, watered by the Rojas river, and its affluents, the Arroyos Saladas and Visnaga: it extends almost as far as Rojas, and comprises four establishments, the Bañadito, Carmen, Saladas, and Triunfo. The Pacheco estancia extends southward from the town towards Cañada del Huncal and Laguna de Artigas; eastward is the fine property of David Lanata, close to which is Mr. Murphy's estancia of the Huncal. Those of Messrs. Bell and Riddle lie between the town of Salto and Mr. Hale's estancia of the Tatay. Michael Murray, Hyland, Blanco, and Berruti are situate on the north bank of the Salto river, Ayrala is south of the river, and Fuentes on the Arroyo del Huncal. The stock returns are—55,000 cows, 16,110 horses, 11,200 fine sheep, 515,000 mestiza do., 14,000 creole do.; being an average of 600 cows, 200 horses, and 6,000 sheep to the square league. This partido is very suitable for beginners, as land of excellent quality may be easily obtained: most of the Government lands are held «in enfiteusis» or squatter's right. Agriculture is beginning to be attended to, there being 90 small chacras, and 13 larger ones. Population returns—Argentines 2,752, English 196, Spaniards 184, French 206, Italians 89, Germans 8, Indians 2, others 41; total 3,478. There are 180 houses and 683 ranchos: 4 Alcaldes, 18 Tenientes, 14 policemen, and 700 National Guards. The land is valued at \$450,000 per league. Total valuation 22,000,000, against 11,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$88,000.

The town of Salto has a church, schools, bank, 2 doctors, 6 cloth shops, 3 carpenters, 2 forges, 12 groceries and pulperias, a comfortable inn, and 160 good houses: of the latter the best are, those of Lanata, Blanco, Pisano, Sanz, Gundin, Escobedo, Grigera, Sierra, Berruti, Herrera, Payan, Martelo, Fontana, Palomino, and Delfiade, all valued over \$100,000. There are mail-coaches both to the Mercedes and Chivilcoy railway stations. The town is on the south side of the Salto river. The branch bank serves also for the districts of Fortin, Arrecifes, Chacabuco, Junin, and Rojas, having a capital of \$2,000,000m^c. The Irish residents are visited by Father Leahy from the Fortin, who established a circulating library here in 1865, and a Literary Society in connection with same. The library subscribes for nine European newspapers, and counts sixty members: the latter have recently built two club rooms for the institute, where they meet on Sundays, two cuadras distant from the Plaza. The state-schools are attended by sixty-four boys and sixty-five girls. Municipal income, \$140,000. Justice of Peace, Don Benito Crisol; Curate, Rev. Felipe Roccatagliata; Postmaster, Don Leon Aviles; *Standard* agent, Don Leonidas F. Blanco.

Salto is 5 leagues S. of Arrecifes, 14 N.E. of Junin, 13 W. of San Antonio, and 14 N. of Chivilcoy.

Arrecifes.

Situate 33 leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, is bounded on the N. by Ramallo and S. Nicolas, on the W. by Pergamino and Rojas, on the S. by Salto, and on the E. by San Pedro. It has an area of 125 square leagues, comprising 59 estancias, of which the following are the principal:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Molina bros. ....	.... 15	Jimenez, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$
Crisol bros. ....	.... 5	Blanco, ....	.... 1
A. P. Lezica, ....	.... 5	V. Perez Millan, ....	.... 1
José Andrade, ....	.... $3\frac{1}{2}$	B. Perez Millan, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Velez Sarsfield, ....	.... $3\frac{1}{2}$	P. Perez Millan, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Saavedra, family, ....	.... 5	Cañe, ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Viñas bros. ....	.... 3	Caminos, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Paredes. ....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Mosquera, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Stegmann, ....	.... 13	Hornos bros., ....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Ortega, ....	.... $4\frac{3}{4}$	Buceta bros., ....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Lopez, family, ....	.... $2\frac{1}{2}$	E. Carranza, ....	.... 1
Sillitoe, ....	.... 2	Sra. Juarez, ....	.... $\frac{3}{8}$
Roque Perez, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Pereyra sisters, ....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Cobo, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{8}$	John Yaczmitch, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$
Sierra, family, ....	.... 5	Basigalup, family, ....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Casa, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$	Zapiola, ....	.... 4
Sarlo, ....	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$	Bernal, ....	.... $2\frac{1}{2}$

The partido is watered by the River Arrecifes, which is formed a little above the town of the same name, by the confluence of the Fontezuelas and Salto rivers: the affluents of the Rio de Arrecifes are, the Arroyos de Burgos, Cañete, Luna, Contador, Lopez, Gomez, Cantero, Invernada, Laguna, &c. The camps are among the best in the province, and the partido has progressed greatly of late years.

Four leagues due north of Arrecifes is the estancia del Tala, the valuable and model sheep-farm of Mr. George Stegmann, so well-known for its pure Negrettis. The galpon is visible for leagues around and has the appearance of a church. Brick puestos of one and two stories occur here and there, and the estancia-house stands on a rising ground, nestling in groves of peach-trees with farm-buildings scattered about; and large meadows of

alfalfa are seen dotting the camp on all sides. The estancia is partly in Arrecifes and partly in the partido of Ramallo, and comprises altogether $17\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues of excellent camp, three-fourths of which is rented to Irish and other farmers, and the remainder forms the Cabaña del Tala, with a stock of 2,700 pure Negrettis and 35,000 fine sheep of cross-breeds. The establishment is just twenty years old, and some remarks about the origin of Mr. Stegmann's renowned Cabañas may be interesting. So far back as 1835 the late Mr. Stegmann, father of the present owners (George and Claudius) imported from Germany 20 Negrettis of the Imperial Cabaña of Austria, and shortly afterwards 60 others: these animals were first placed in the field or garden that now adjoins the British hospital, at the foot of Calle Defensa. The Poronguitos Cabaña (9 leagues beyond Ranchos) was established in 1836; it now comprises some 10 leagues of camp and 60,000 sheep (including about 1300 pure Negrettis). The great attention and good system of the brothers Stegmann in this line of business has obtained for them a high repute, and they were awarded at Paris the 1st bronze medal for Argentine wool. The galpon of the Tala is perhaps the finest structure of the kind in the country; it measures 75 yards long by 21 wide, and can accommodate 1,500 prize sheep; it has 12 doors in the lower story, and 6 in the upper, giving perfect ventilation, and the turret (47 feet high) affords a view of the various puestos for leagues around; the edifice cost £2,500 sterling. There is a smaller «galpon,» that can also accommodate a large number of sheep. There are several fine animals bred in the country, that give fleeces up to 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The Negrettis are so tame that in walking through the corral you find them to come and lick your hand or pull the end of your poncho. There is also a «manada» of English ponies, comprising a variety of very handsome animals.

Nothing can exceed the comfort and good style of the estancia house, where Mr. Stegman resides with his family, and has always a well-stocked cellar to regale his friends or visitors. Mr. Stegmann was educated in Germany, and has held the post of Deputy to the Provincial Legislature. The estancia runs 20 miles from N. to S., and is about 7 miles wide, being intersected by the Cañada Grande. Dr. Priestly of Capilla del Señor has sheep on a portion of the land. Adjoining the Tala estancia is that of Mr. Sillitoe, managed by Don Miguel Murphy: it is apparently the oldest in this part of the country, the house and venerable acacia trees bearing the impress of the last century. The camps, like those all around, are remarkably fine; the stock amounts to 30,000 sheep. To the E. of Stegmann's estancia are those of Ortega, Carranza, Sierra, Andrade, and Cané, which are intersected by the Arroyo de Burgos. That of Andrade

is called Estancia del Paraiso, with fine rolling camps and two comfortable residences. The Sierra family has a second estancia, between the lands of the Perez Millan family and the Arrecifes river. The original Perez Millan, in the last century, was one of the earliest settlers so far north, and his descendants still own the land adjacent to the town of Arrecifes, after crossing the river, till we reach the estancia of Dr. Velez Sarsfield on the Arroyo de Cañete, about half-way to Stegmann's. The lands of Roque Perez, Gimenez, and Viñas are situate north of Fontezuelas river, and east of Sillitoe's estate. The extensive properties of Crisol and Lezica form a «crincon» between the Fontezuelas and Salto rivers. Loma Alta, belonging to Sra. Saavedra Riglos, and the rest of the Saavedra estates, are S. of Arrecifes, and are intersected by numerous arroyos. The Ponce Lopez estancia is close to the town, at the bend where the Salto river flows into that of Arrecifes. The Molina estancias cover a great territory about midway between the rivers of Arreco and Arrecifes. Zapiola's and Bernal's properties are further west. The land is valued at \$450,000 per square league, and the total valuation is \$32,000,000, against \$7,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$128,000. The stock returns are—124,861 cows, 23,520 horses, 4,780 fine sheep, 430,000 mestiza sheep, 56,332 creole sheep, being an average of 1,000 cows, 200 horses, and 4,000 sheep per square league. The population returns are as follows:—3,103 Argentines, 121 English, 111 Spaniards, 81 French, 55 Italians, 17 Germans, 2 Indians, 24 others; total, 3,514. There are 184 houses and 555 ranchos, including 33 pulperias: 3 Alcaldes, 6 Tenientes, 12 police, and 360 National Guards. There are only nine chacras in the partido, with a total of two or three hundred acres under agriculture.

The village of Arrecifes, situate on the river of the same name, has a most picturesque appearance and contains about 1,000 inhabitants. It is more than a century old, and the first chapel was built by the founder of the town, Señor Peñalva: some remains still exist to perpetuate his memory. The present neat and commodious church was erected by Perez Millan, grand-father of the late Justice of Peace. The municipal house, also in the plaza, has a Grecian front, and was built in 1866 by Mr. Michael Carmody, architect. The public school and priest's house are worthy of note. The chief shop in the town is that of Señor Martinez. Trade is so dull that sometimes all the ready money in the place does not amount to £20 sterling. It is suggested for Government to buy a quantity of land around the town, and give it out in chacras and gardens. There is no resident doctor, but an apothecary; no library or club, half-a-dozen billiard

rooms, three brick kilns, and forty-four rateable houses. The best houses are those of Ponte, Rodriguez, Saavedra, Perez Millan, Astrada, Guerra, and Catan, valued from \$80,000 upwards. The new mill, of an enterprising Frenchman, named Pomesse, is on the bank of the river, close to the town: it is four stories high, cost over £4,000 sterling, and can grind 100 sacks of flour daily, a tunnel of 180 yards long conveying the necessary water from the river: the owner made his money in the village as a baker. There is a fine bridge over the river, built by Hunt & Schroeder. The state schools are attended by 54 boys and 48 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Jorge Stegmann; Curate, Rev. José Clotas; Postmaster, Don Waldredo Rodriguez; *Standard* agent, Señor Martinez; Municipality, six members. Municipal revenue, \$87,000.

Arrecifes is 12 leagues W.N.W. of San Antonio, 8 N.W. of Fortin de Areco, 17 N.E. of Junin, 11 E.N.E. of Rojas, 9 S.E. of Pergamino, and 16 S. of San Nicolas.

CHAP. V.

NORTH AND WEST FRONTIERS.

PERGAMINO TO VEINTE-Y-CINCO DE MAYO.

Pergamino.

SITUATE forty-two leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of sixty-eight square leagues, including three of public lands: it comprises no fewer than 192 estancias, of which several belong to Englishmen.

The partido is bounded on the north by the Province of Santa Fé, from which it is separated by sundry small «arroyos» rising near the Lagunas de Cardoso, on the west by Indian territory and the partido of Rojas, on the South by Rojas and Salto, and on the east by Arrecifes. It is watered by the river of Pergamino, called Rio Fontezuelas, and numberless «arroyos,» some of which flow into the said river, and others into the Arroyo del Medio. Mr. Hale's estancia is on the extreme frontier, ten leagues inside of Fort India Muerta: it is on the highroad to Cordoba, adjoining the Lagunas de Cardoso and Cañada de Paja. Messrs. Peña and Anchorena have a large estancia N. of the Rio Fontezuelas, about two leagues east of the town of Pergamino. La Larga is the property of Don José L. Moreno, who has also acquired the lands of Ruiz & Duarte, on the Arroyo Palmitas. The land of the late R. Hastings lies between this and the Gata Quemada. Patrick Fitzsimons adjoins Alberto Ortiz, who has a large lagoon on his estate. The Arroyo Cepeda runs through the lands of Azcuenaga and Benitez, and here was fought the battle October, 1859, in which General Mitre, although beaten, made a masterly retreat. Azcuenaga has two estancias, San Miguel and La Rabona, and near the latter is La Amistad, the

property of the late Don Pepe Herrera. The estancia of Fermin O. Basualdo is at Centinela, three leagues south of Pergamino, between the arroyos Montiel and Dulce. Lezama has a large property adjoining the last-named river. The lands of Roque Perez and Viñas are north of the River Fontezuelas, and a little further we find the estancias of Mooney and Figuerroa, on the head waters of the Arroyo Ramallo. The Acevedo estates adjoin those of Benites, running in a straight line nearly five leagues, till reaching the Arroyo del Medio. On the other side of this frontier line there are numerous settlers, viz.: Maciel, Ramirez, Acevedo, Arias, Gonzalez, Sanchez, Rivero, &c. The estancia Goycotea is the furthestmost in a W.N.W. direction: it adjoins Mr. Hale's, and is ten leagues inside of Fort Melincué. The chief estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
E. Peña,	6	Alfonso, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
P. J. Acevedo,	4	Doyle's heirs,	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. G. Lezama,	$3\frac{1}{2}$	F. Basualdo,	$2\frac{1}{4}$
José L. Moreno,	6	L. Cuets,	$2\frac{1}{4}$
J. F. Benitez,	3	M. Azcuenaga,	6
J. Blanco,	3	Echevarria,	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Arnold & Co.,	3	F. Figuerroa,	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Patrick Fitzsimons, ...	1	P. Arnold,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
W. Allison, ....	....	Doña F. Fuente,	1
W. Fitzsimons, ....	....	Sab. Kier,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Viñas,	2	M. Ulloa,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Richard Hastings,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	F. Ojeda,	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. G. Boer,	3	Cernadas,	$\frac{1}{2}$
José Herrera,	3	A. Diaz,	$\frac{3}{8}$
A. Loza,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Olmos, family,	$1\frac{3}{4}$
F. Gimenez,	1	W. Mooney,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Quintana,	4	J. Benitez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
S. B. Hale,	2	P. Barros,	$\frac{3}{4}$
R. Trelles,	2	Barrionuevo,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Bett's heirs,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	R. Baez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
F. Botet,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Zamora,	$\frac{3}{8}$
A. Basualdo,	3	J. C. Vasquez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Goycotea,	3	Sarmiento, family,	$\frac{3}{8}$
D. Schoo,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Rodriguez, family,	$\frac{3}{8}$
M. Lopez,	$\frac{3}{4}$	A. Fernandez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
A. Silva,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Alexander Winton,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Roque Perez,	1		

This partido has always been so exposed and insecure as to be considered beyond civilization, although the camps are usually very good. One of the earliest Irish settlers was the late John Doyle, who was murdered, along with another Irishman, by the fugitive soldiers after the battle of Cepeda, October, 1859. The English population is about 100. But for the dread of Indian invasions this part of the province would make rapid progress: the Provincial Government will doubtless give speedy attention to the matter. At present forts Melincué and India Muerta are next to useless: in November, 1868, a band of twenty Indians and Gauchos made a raid here, and caused much alarm. The partido is much infested with vagabonds escaping from Buenos Ayres to Santa Fé, and vice-versa. The first estancia going west from Pergamino is that called La Botija, of very good land, after which we meet that of an old resident, Mr. Jacobs, who has made great improvements. A little further is the estancia Cerillos, belonging to Mr. Michael Fitzsimons, formerly of Villa Luxan. The camps now begin to get coarse, and we come to the estancia Vanguardia, of Mr. William Allison, then to the Cañada de la Paja, where Mr. Winton is settled. Further still is Santa Isabel, belonging to Mr. Hale; near this are Mr. John Fox's place of Juncal Grande, and Mr. Michael Duffy's estancia Porvenir. There are few sheep since the last drought, but a couple of years ago the stock was very large: a great portion died, and much more was driven off in quest of better camps. Mr. M. Fitzsimons has about 3,000 sheep, Mr. Fox over 10,000. All the farmers have lost, not only the increase, but nearly half their capital of animals. Don Diego Alvear is establishing a large farm N.W., having purchased and measured a tract of land on either side of the frontier between Buenos Ayres and Santa Fé, extending from Mr. Hale's estancia out towards forts Melincué, Chañar, and Nutria. The fear of Indians has obliged many settlers to change the pastoral for the agricultural life, and now there are numerous chacras springing up, belonging to natives as well as foreigners. The stock returns are—135,890 cows, 25,176 horses, 17,000 fine sheep, 658,329 mestiza sheep, 24,500 creole sheep, and 2,597 pigs, being an average of 2,000 cows, 400 horses, and 10,000 sheep per square league. The valuation of land is \$300,000 per league. Total valuation \$23,000,000, against \$13,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$92,000. Population returns are—6,714 Argentines, 146 French, 91 Indians, 57 Italians, 39 Germans, 25 English, 70 others—total 7,042. There are 315 houses, and 1,110 ranchos; 10 alcaldes, 26 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 1,265 National Guards.

† The town of Pergamino was first used as a halting-place on the post-road to Cordoba; subsequently it became an important frontier outpost, but it

suffered severely during the civil wars of 1853-61, and was sacked after the battle of Pavon. About the same time it was besieged by Indians. The church is a very handsome edifice, and there are also state schools, barracks, several shops and brick kilns, and 103 rateable houses: of these last the best are those of Zamora, Nogueras, Begué, Martinez, Olmos, Otero, Gorordo, Alcaraz, Aguirre, Cuets, Cardoso, Celhay, Cobian, Duarte, Lopez, Echagué, Fernandez, Grigera, Morales, Reinandi, Rodriguez, Saenz, Ulloa, and Vasquez, all valued over \$50,000. The Irish residents of this partido are visited by Rev. J. Leahy of San Pedro. Mr. R. Jacobs has a barraca here, in connection with the firm of Pacharpe & Co., of San Nicolas and Buenos Ayres, and the stranger can nowhere find better advice or assistance than from this gentleman, who has spent twenty years in the country, and is noted for his enterprise and high character. The state schools are attended by 83 boys and 61 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Mauricio Chavarria; Curate, Rev. José Gimenez; Postmaster, Don Manuel Vasquez; *Standard* agent, Mr. R. Jacobs; Municipality, four members. Municipal revenue, \$125,000.

Pergamino is 5 leagues south of the Arroyo del Medio, 17 N.E. of Fort Chañar, 7 north of Rojas, 10 N.N.W. of Salto, and 9 N.W. of Arrecifes.

Rojas.

— Situate 43 leagues W.N.W. of Buenos Ayres has an area of 182 square leagues, most of which is still public land. This partido was a few years ago a desert wild, unknown to sheep-farmers except as an out-of-the-way place often over-run by Indians, and latterly fixed on as a military head-quarters.

The partido is bounded on the N. by Pergamino, on the W. by Indian territory, on the S. by Junin and Chacabuco, and on the E. by Salto and Arrecifes. It is watered by the Rojas river and the Arroyo Dulce, and nearly half the partido is beyond the line of frontier, which runs from Fort Mercedes almost due S. to the town of Junin. Fort Mercedes is close to a lagoon in the Cañada de Rojas, about 8 leagues S.E. of Fort Melincué; the frontier passes Tapera de los Cueros, traversing the estancias of Llavallol and Peralta Ramos; then crosses Arroyo Pelado, near which is a Fort of the same name; it next traverses the Cañada la Piedra and Arroyo de Nutrias, and finally reaches the public lands and township of Junin.

The largest estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Llavallol, ....	.... 10	Saavedra, ....	.... 2
Cano bros., ....	.... 7	Albariño, ....	.... 2
Quirno bros., ....	.... 6	M. Hardoy, ....	.... 1
Peralta Ramos, ....	.... 6	Riestra, ....	.... 1
M. Casal, ....	.... 3	John Huss, ....	.... 2
Sanabria, ....	.... 2	Sarló, ....	.... 3
John Murphy, ....	.... 1	Céspedes, ....	.... 3
M. Martinez, ....	.... 1½	Martinez, family, ....	.... 4
Gen. Conesa, ....	.... 4	Ulloa, ....	.... 2
Grigera, ....	.... 2	Carrasco bros., ....	.... 1¼
Guiraldes, ....	.... 2	James Bollasty, ....	.... 1¼
Sierra, ....	.... 2	Sagasta, ....	.... 4

There are several smaller, belonging to English settlers, of which we have returns of their valuation (but not their extent) as follows—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
James Bollasty,	\$460,000	Thomas Mullady,	\$25,000
David Anderson,	45,000	Patrick Tobin,	15,000
Tormey's heirs,	50,000	Peter Gerraty,	15,000
Patrick Moffatt,	50,000	Henry Geddes,	15,000
Peter Carey,	40,000	Wm. Dowse,	15,000
Peter Lawler,	40,000	Peter Murray,	15,000
John Moffatt,	30,000	John Tobin, ....	....
Thomas Geoghegan,	35,000	N. McNeill, ....	....
Thomas Quinnan,	30,000	Pat. Murphy and W. Boggins,	....

The settlers outside the frontier, having lots of about 3 square leagues, are as follow—Carlos Louton, Ricardo Lezica, Carlos Alsina, Mariano Irigoyen, Benito Blanco, Edward Madero & Co., M. Nuñez.

The first English settlers found their way to Rojas within the last ten years, and notwithstanding its proximity to the Indian frontier the partido is coming into much favor with sheep-farmers on account of its superior camps: its present English population is about 300. Mr. James Bollasty has a very fine establishment, close to the town, comprising both pasturage and agriculture; his stock of sheep is over 30,000, and his chacra covers a great extent of ground in which he has sown sixty fanegas of wheat; he has also a «graseria» with two boilers, for rendering down sheep. Mr. Bollasty is a fine specimen of our countrymen, and so much appreciated by his Argentine neighbors that they have elected him to the municipal board, where his genius for progress and improvement are still equally visible.

Mr. John Hughes has purchased and stocked an estancia, with 20,000 sheep and 1,500 cows; he has also a small «graseria» for boiling down sheep. Mr. Edward Macken has about 8,000 sheep on his land, Mr. Geoghegan about 7,000, and the heirs of Mr. Darby Tormey have also a considerable stock. The other Irish farmers are no less prosperous: these brave fellows are doing more to advance the cause of industry and civilization in this remote corner of the Pampas, than all the legislators and Governments of Buenos Ayres since the Independence. There are also some enterprising Scotchmen, and Mr. Geddes, besides sheep-farming, occupies himself in buying wool for the Buenos Ayres market and sending in sheep to the «graserias» at San Nicolas. Some of the native estancias are very important: that of Dorrado, which is partly in this partido and partly in Salto, is stocked with over 100,000 sheep, 60,000 horned cattle, and 4,000 horses. The estancia of the late Don Juan Cano has been divided between his sons Marciano and Roberto: the former resides at El Carmen, as the estancia house is called, and has a stock of 45,000 sheep, 48,000 cows, and 600 mares and tame horses; the Mayordomo of the horned cattle has a distinct residence called Buena Vista, and that of the mayordomo of sheep is at Encrucijada, about a mile from El Carmen. Mr. Geddes had charge of this establishment for ten years. At the Carmen there is a comfortable residence; also a shed 50 yards by 12, with two lofts, one of which is capable of containing 8,000 arrobas of wool, and on the ground floor there are stables for the Negretti flock during the lambing season and the colds of winter. The house is sheltered by 20 acres of plantation, including paradise, peach, black and white acacia, and quince trees. There are 30 acres of Alfalfa or trefoil, 80 acres of wheat, and 18 of Indian corn; the whole fenced in with wire, covering 36 cuadras, and having four avenues leading to the house, corrals and out-offices: the place is close to the high-road, and the coaches change horses here. Don Roberto Cano has a fine estancia-house at San José, and his stock comprises 12,000 cows, 25,000 sheep, and 250 horses: he has about 70 acres under tillage, and is fencing in as much more for the same purpose: the owner is, like all his countrymen, very hospitable to visitors. St. Gertrude's, or the Llavallol estancia, lies between forts Mercedes and Pelado, and is watered by the Cañada Rojas and Arroyo Pelado. Santa Cecilia, the property of Messrs. Quirno, lies about 3 leagues W. of Rojas, and adjoining the town is Mr. John Murphy's estancia of La Caldera. That of Peralta Ramos, called San Jacinto, has the lagoons of Cabeza del Tigre and La Estrella, and is near Fort Pelado. The lands of Casal, Céspedes and Sarló are adjacent to Fort Mercedes: those of Sanabria, Martínez, Albariño, Sierra, Ulloa, and

Carrasco are on the N.E. bank of the Rojas river. General Conesa and Señor Grigera are on the Arroyo Saladas, near the Pescado lagoon. Huss, Saavedra and Guiraldes are S. of Rojas, near an arroyo styled Saladillo de la Vuelta. Of the outside settlers the furthestmost are—Madero, Irigoyen, and Alsina, near a lagoon called Chañaritos, which is only 5 leagues from Fort Melincué.

The stock-returns of the partido are—89,129 cows, 7,686 horses, 2,850 fine sheep, 312,673 mestiza sheep, 25,965 creole sheep, and 4,973 pigs, being an average of 500 cows, 42 horses, and 2,000 sheep per square league. Land is variously valued at two, three, or four hundred thousand dollars. Total valuation 12,000,000, against 4,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$48,000. Population returns—2,171 Argentines, 112 English, 112 Italians, 132 French, 48 Spaniards, 11 Germans, 29 various; total 2,615. There are 167 houses and 444 ranchos: 6 Alcaldes, 13 Tenientes, 12 policemen, and 321 National Guards. The scarcity of horses in this partido is owing to the frequent incursions of the Indians. Persons looking for land can either purchase or rent same from Government, or buy the right of «enfiteusis» from previous settlers.

The town of Rojas is small but well-built, with a population of 1,700 souls, and is usually garrisoned by a force of 250 cavalry: it has a church, state-schools, several good shops, and 62 rateable houses: of these last the best are those belonging to—Escobar, Peralta, Gen. Emilio Mitre, Gen. Conesa, Elordi, Fretes, Perez, Ojeda, Quirno, Rospide, Roquez, Rocca, Morgando Medina, Barreiro, Biquiristain, Diaz, Herrera, Frias, all valued from \$50,000 upwards. The town has much improved under the municipal boards of the last couple of years, and Mr. Bollasty has actively furthered all improvements. The plaza is neatly laid out, with walks and seats, and a monument is being erected in the centre, at an expense of \$25,000, to the patron-saint of the town, San Francisco. The public school and garden have been greatly improved thanks to Mr. Bollasty's liberality, and this gentleman is also a leading supporter of the Irish Library and Institute: the library receives seven European journals fortnightly, and counts forty members; attached to the reading-room is a yard 40 varas square, where the Irishmen put up their horses when they come in to Mass on Sunday mornings; the club meets for lectures, &c. once a month, patron Rev. Largo M. Leahy. It is impossible to exaggerate the benefit of these Irish libraries: the returns shew that each member reads on an average 194 books in a year, whereas only seven years ago a book was quite a rarity in a shepherd's house, except among wealthy estancieros. The Irish racing society has meetings near Rojas at stated periods. The state-schools are

attended by 50 boys and 41 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Francisco Roca; Curate, Rev. Visconti; Post-master, Don Isidro Navarro; *Standard* agent, Mr. Bollasty. Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$146,000.

Rojas is 10 leagues S.E. of Fort Mercedes, 9 N.N.E. of Junin. 10 N.N.W. of Chacabuco, 9 W.N.W. of Salto, and 11 W.S.W. of Arrecifes.

Junin.

Situate 45 leagues W.N.W. of Buenos Ayres, is another newly-settled territory, comprising 80 square leagues, a good deal of which is Government land.

The partido is bounded on the north by Rojas, on the west by Indian territory and the new partido of Lincoln, on the south by Bragado, and on the east by Chacabuco. It has an abundance of water, viz.: Lake Chañar, Mar Chiquita, and the Gomez lagoons, besides the Rio Salado, which traverses a great portion of the country in a S.E. direction. A slight range of hills runs S.S.E. from Fort Chañar towards Bragado. Most of the partido is outside the frontier and much exposed to the Indians: there is a fort at Lake Chañar, five leagues outside of Fort Pelado, and another (Fort Morote) between Mar Chiquita and the Gomez lagoons, two leagues N.W. of the town of Junin. The estancias of Mr. Atkins, Señora Hernandez, and Don E. Payan are close to the town. Those of Toledo and Lastra are south of the Salado, near the lagoons of El Carpincho and Los Patos. That of Amézaga is a large property near Lagunas de Gomez, with an old fort called Canton Potroso, and the lagunas of Nutria and Sierra. The lands of Burke Lopez, and Sosa adjoin the new partido of Lincoln; as also those of General E. Mitre, Fajardo, and Ydoyaga, which are south of Mar Chiquita. Mr. Michael Murray's estancia is washed on one side by the Sauce, and on another by the Arroyo la Vuelta. The Saavedras are north of the Salado, and here there is a tract of public land fifteen square leagues in extent. Pombo and Paseyros are situate on the Arroyo las Nutrias; and in the midst of the Indian country we find Alvear, Nasarre, Argerich, Soler, Caudevilla, Lecuna, Valle, Franqui, Scheiner, Sala, Aramburú, Lezica, and Irigoyen. Fort Chañar is on Alvear's ground, and this is fifty-six leagues (as the bird flies) W.N.W. of the city of Buenos Ayres, being thirteen leagues west of Rojas. Mar Chiquita is one of the largest lakes in the province, being three leagues long by one and a-half in width. The Lagunas de Gomez are an irregular series of lakes, seven leagues in length by a mile or so in breadth: the Rio Salado flows hence in an easterly direction.

The chief estancias are those of—

G. Pombo,
 L. Saavedra & Bros.,
 Lucas Castro,
 General E. Mitre,
 Frank Dowling,
 Michael Murray,
 T. Escobedo,
 E. Medina,
 J. M. Olivera,
 Fajardo,
 P. Giles,
 Amézaga,
 J. Gomez,
 Rev. B. Paz,
 F. Villafañe,
 W. Villafañe,
 A. Lastra,
 P. Arza,
 F. Gonsalez,
 R. Vasquez,
 J. Moreno,
 J. Godoy,
 M. Flugerto,
 Rocha Olivera,
 Alegre Brothers,
 Linera,
 Diego Alvear,
 J. Sierra,
 J. Aguilera,
 B. Ferreyra,
 F. Vilches,
 M. Jugo,
 A. Roca,
 Romero & Co.,
 Balmaseda,
 Franqui & Co.,

J. J. Perez,
 J. Garcia,
 M. Delfrade,
 B. Martinez,
 D. Maza,
 J. Romero,
 M. Arza,
 P. Henestrosa,
 G. Scheiner,
 Aramburú,
 E. Lezica,
 B. Irigoyen,
 Paseyros,
 George Atkins,
 Burke,
 Valle,
 Sala,
 Argerich,
 Caudevilla,
 Soler,
 Señora Castro,
 Lopez,
 Nasarre,
 Lecuna,
 Martel,
 Perez,
 Payan,
 Garay,
 Cabral,
 Ydoyaga,
 Abella,
 Aparicio,
 Toledo,
 Sosa,
 Gomez,

These lands were first tried for sheepfarming during the drought of 1863, when many Irishmen drove their flocks hither to save them from dying in the over-stocked partidos near Buenos Ayres. Some of them

remained here permanently, but the population is still very thin, and our countrymen do not exceed 100 in number. The returns of stock are—43,046 cows, 5,785 horses, 58,685 mestiza sheep, and 2,644 pigs, being an average of 500 cows, 70 horses, and 700 sheep per square league. A portion of this partido has been recently taken off, in the formation of the new partido of Lincoln.

Agriculture seems to be making much progress: there are eighty-one chacras, covering about 20,000 acres: the following are the principal:—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
Aparicio,	\$165,000	Liborio Pio,	\$15,000
Narbondó,	65,000	C. Giles,	15,000
Reparas,	65,000	Suar's heirs,	15,000
Deagustini,	32,000	V. Uviedo,	12,000
Montenegro,	20,000	B. Chaves,	10,000
Paniza,	20,000	E. Suarez,	12,000
Munoz,	20,000	M. Cuello,	12,000
M. Lopez,	18,000	M. Marull,	12,000
P. Seguí,	15,000	E. Espinosa,	10,000

The total valuation of the partido is \$3,000,000, against \$500,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$12,000. Population returns—1,111 Argentines, 89 Indians, 44 Spaniards, 35 Italians, 17 French, 9 English, 1 German, 20 various—total 1,325. There are 37 houses and 340 ranchos, including 21 shops; 4 alcaldes, 8 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 130 National Guards.

The village of Junin is little more than a military post, garrisoned by 26 soldiers of the Line: it has 836 inhabitants, a public school, and 33 rateable houses, of which the best are those of Degiovanni, Abella, Ledesma, Boy & Co., Rodriguez, Barace, Abaca, Zans, Larrañaga, Calp & Pferrer, Frias, Amadeo, and Fraga, valued from \$20,000 upwards. The place derives its name from a victory over the Spaniards, in Peru, during the War of Independence. The state school is attended by 50 boys and 40 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Estanislao Alegre, who is also postmaster. Municipality, four members. Municipal revenue, \$157,000.

Junin is 13 leagues S.E. of Fort Chañar, 9 S.S.W. of Rojas, 14 S.W. of Salto, 10 west of Chacabuco, 18 N.W. of Chivilcoy, and 9 north of Fort Ituzaingo.

Lincoln.

Situate about 60 leagues W.N.W. of Buenos Ayres, is entirely outside the frontier. The partido is of such recent formation that we have very

scanty information about it. On the occasion of President Lincoln's assassination the Legislature of Buenos Ayres resolved to pay a tribute to his memory by giving his name to the next partido that should be formed. As yet there is no administrative organization of Justice of Peace, Municipality, &c.; neither is there any centre of population, although the site of the intended town has been decreed.

The partido is bounded on the N. and W. by Indian territory, on the S. by the Nueve de Julio, and on the E. by Bragao and Junin. There are no arroyos worth notice, but an abundance of lagoons. In the extreme north is the Villareal estancia, of 6 square leagues, near the Medanos de Acha and Las Balas. Mr. Wiebeck is settled in the Cañada Orqueta, Mr. Thomas Gowland at Laguna del Renegado, and Mr. Chapeaurouge at Laguna de Corridos. Messrs. Bullrich, Cordoba, Freers, Dunkler and Schroeder extend about 10 leagues S.W. from a place called Siete Jagüeles to the lagoon of Tigre Muerto. Don Manuel Rodriguez has an estancia at the Barcala lagoon, Don Luis Amadeo at Inesita, Messrs. Gorehs and Iturrios near the Laguna de los Amigos, and Del Sar, Vivot, Martinez near the Laguna del Guacho. The furthest settler westward is Don Antonio Pereyra, who has 6 square leagues of camp near the Lagunas Rastrillada, Libres, Carmen, Lagarto and Perillan: this chain of lakes is 65 leagues due W. of Buenos Ayres city, and forms the last landmark of civilization in the far west pampas. In the immediate neighbourhood we also find William Martins, F. Saavedra, and J. Gimenez, near the Medano de Uyito. The new town of Lincoln will be built about 10 leagues outside Fort Ituzaingó, from which the frontier runs almost due N. to Junin, passing the Medanos del Hornito and El Moro, and traversing the camps of Castro, Aniczaca and Atkins. Besides the estancias already enumerated in this partido, must be mentioned those of Michael Murray, George W. Atkins, F. Dowling, P. Beristayri, P. Reparas, L. Monsalvo, Montes-de-Oca, Fajardo, and Gueri. We have no returns of stock or population.

Chacabuco.

The partido of Chacabuco contains about 88 square leagues of land, divided into ten cuarteles, with an Alcalde and Tenientes to each. There are $5\frac{1}{2}$ leagues of land at the present time divided into quintas and chacras, which at the close of the Paraguayan war are to be distributed amongst the soldiers who have served in the campaign.

The town of Chacabuco consists of 18 manzanas, all built of brick, with azotea or tile roofs, and 10 quintas, with young, though flourishing montes. The greater part of the inhabitants are Basques and Italians, but further progress in the town has been much retarded owing to Government not permitting the municipality to dispose of these lands. As yet the town boasts of no public buildings. The lands of this partido are of a rich deep soil, and have for the last few years been eagerly sought after by Englishmen. About one-half are refined lands well adapted for, and largely occupied, in sheep-breeding; a good part is also occupied in cattle, and tillage is carried out to a large extent. The chief native estancias are, the Medano Blanco, belonging to Don Patricio Roche, which comprises four square leagues of land, with fine estancia-house, quintas, immense alfalfares, and galpons for sheep; also a graseria. The number of sheep on these lands amounts to from 45,000 to 50,000, with about 5,000 head of horned cattle. This may be considered the chief estancia in the partido. The estancias of Sres. Pacheco, Vidal, and Alvear also occupy a prominent position. Among the English estancias the chief is that of Mr. E. B. Perkins, Estancia la Esperanza, comprising $2\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues of land. a good estancia-house with adjoining offices together with fine quintas, alfalfares and potreros for cattle. The land, which is surrounded by 21 fine puestos, is occupied by about 15,000 sheep, and from 3,000 to 4,000 head of horned cattle. The sowing of wheat and maize is largely carried on, as is tillage of all kinds. Several fine young plantations are commencing also to show themselves, which in a few years will be of great value. The other chief estancias are those of Messrs. Duggan, E. Casey, M. Allen, M. Murray, F. Pierson, F. Dowling, J. Drysdale, J. Maclean, Forest, Serna, Castro, Mirô, Vasquez, Crisol, Insiarte, Saubidet, Maldonado, Blanco, James Bell, Gonzalez, Quirno and Machado. The Estancia de la Creolla, also in this partido, has been lately purchased from a native company by J. H. Green, and consists of $5\frac{1}{2}$ leagues of land with estancia-house, offices, &c. This is the largest English property in the partido, but is as yet unstocked owing to its having changed hands so recently. Agriculture is now carried on in this partido on a much larger scale than in most other parts of the province, mostly by the natives, and the crops promise to be very successful this year; many large fortunes have been made in this branch during the last few years, and we are surprised that our countrymen do not introduce more capital into this business. The Irish population may be set down at 500. Land averages from \$300,000 to \$600,000, according to quality. The Government price is \$200,000 per league. Average price of sheep from \$15 to \$20; cattle from \$50 to \$80; mares from \$45 to \$60.

Chacabuco is distant 36 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, and, the partido being of recent formation, the returns of property, &c. are not sufficiently minute, for which reason most of the estancias will be included in our reports of the neighbouring districts, from which this partido has been formed. The partido is watered by the San Patricio, Peludos and Mingorena arroyos, which traverse the estancias of Dowling, Forest and Pearson, before falling into the Salado; the Arroyo Juncal, which bisects the Pacheco estancia; and a number of lagoons. The Laguna Artigas is on the Alvear estancia, Las Toscas and El Gato on that of Machado, Medano Blanco and Medano Chato on Mr. Rocha's, Siete Lagunas on Sor. Castro's, and several others are of lesser note. There are 56 estancias, with an average of a league and a half each. The returns of stock are—102,079 cows, 26,286 horses, 1,380 fine sheep, 554,700 mestiza sheep, 11,600 creole sheep, and 1,750 pigs, being an average of 1,300 cows, 300 horses. and 7,000 sheep per square league. The amount of land under tillage and grain-crops is returned as 14 square leagues, or nearly 90,000 acres. The population counts 5,615 Argentines, 166 English, 83 Italians, 81 French, 54 Spaniards, 44 various; total 6,063. There are 16 houses and 741 ranchos, including 48 shops and stores. Justice of Peace, Don José Maria Rodriguez; Postmaster, Don Eulalio Sempol. Strangers will find reliable information from Mr. Perkins; this gentleman came out with his brothers, and a good capital, from England, a few years ago, and was one of the first settlers in this remote district. The railway from Chivilcoy to Buenos Ayres now places Chacabuco within a day's journey of town. On the estancia of Mr. Michael Allen, in this partido, an Irish chapel has been built, dedicated to St. Mel. and attached to the same is a Library, which was opened on the 5th of May 1868, with a list of thirty subscribers, who receive regular supplies of books from Dublin and New York, and seven European journals by each mail. It is proposed to start a Debating Society, under the patronage of the Rev. L. M. Leahy, to whom the Irishmen of these parts are so much indebted.

The new town of Chacabuco will be situate 10 leagues N.W. of Chivilcoy, 6 N.E. of Rio Salado, 10 E. of Junin, 10 S.S.E. of Rojas, 7 S.S.W. of Salto, and 11 S.W. of Carmen de Areco.

Bragado.

Situate 39 leagues west of Buenos Ayres, comprises 100 square leagues, the largest estancias being those of Francisco Pla's heirs, 6 square leagues,

and Mariano Biaus, $5\frac{1}{2}$ leagues. The other estancias belong to the following persons :—

Quiroga,	Robbio,
Gallo,	Ramirez,
P. Arza,	Emilio Castro,
S. Meabe,	Machain,
S. Unzué,	Olivera,
M. Beccar,	Martinez,
Lanuz,	Ferreira,
Lavado,	Trejo,
Lucena,	Perez,
Ruiz,	Moutier,
P. Castro,	A. Smyth,

The partido is bounded on the north and east by the Rio Salado, which separates it from Chacabuco and Chivilcoy, on the south by 25 de Mayo, and on the west by 9 de Julio. The Biaus estancia is on the southern bank of the Salado, and east of the town of Bragado: it has several lagoons, viz.: Bragado Grande, Casco, Colorada, Los Patos, and Palantelen. The estates of Don Saturnino Unzué also cover a great tract of country in this and the next partido (25 de Mayo). Meabe and Moutier are southward from Bragado, near the lagoons of Olivencia, El Toro, and Las Cañas. The Quiroga estancias are six leagues long by three wide, extending from Fort Angeles along the frontier to Fort Rauch. Further north are the estancias of Bragado Chico, Mataco, and Santa Isabel, belonging respectively to Messrs. Lanuz, Lavado, and Ruiz, all washed by the Salado. There are public lands at Medano de la Cruz and Averias. The lands of Lucena, Ramirez, and Emilio Castro are traversed by the frontier line, and on Mr. Castro's estancia is Fort Ituzaingo, ten leagues south of Junin. The lands of Robbio and Pedro Castro are outside the frontier, near Cañada de Moron.

This partido has made but little progress, owing to the frequent Indian incursions. The lands are, therefore, little sought after by sheepfarmers, who complain also that there are no rivers or arroyos, and that the land is ill adapted for sheep. Nevertheless, an Englishman who has visited this part writes:—"I have great pleasure in stating that I found the lands in the partidos of 25 de Mayo and Bragado are better than people here generally suppose them to be, the grass being in many places two and even three feet high; the quality is good, but better suited for cattle than sheep. The «trevol de olor,» or natural alfalfa, is most beautiful, covering in some places leagues of land, and if cut at the present moment would produce sufficient alfalfa to supply the whole of Buenos Ayres for a year; where

sheep have been placed on the land, even for a few months, its quality becomes much better, and I have no hesitation in saying that there are few finer or better lands for sheep in this province than those of the 25 de Mayo and Bragado. In some parts of the camp there is a large quantity of the wild aloe growing, but this will soon disappear when the land is stocked. A large portion of the lands in these two partidos is owned by Englishmen, and fine azotea houses, puestos, &c., are springing up on all sides. Should the Government resolve to reduce the price of these lands to a moderate and fair sum, I have no doubt they would be purchased at once by the present occupiers of the land. In riding over the land I was much struck with the absence of arroyos, cañadas, or lagunas of any size, and believe that for many leagues the same peculiarity may be noticed; the reason of this is, that the soil being a rich sandy vegetable mould, absorbs all the water that falls, little if any running off the land, even in the heaviest rains; the sub-soil is sand, and in some spots the water is close to the surface, indeed, at one place I visited (the Hincjo) a man simply stooped down to get us a glass of water from his well, the water not being more than three feet below the surface; in other spots the wells were three to five yards deep.»

The English population of this partido does not number 100, but there is every likelihood that it will increase rapidly as soon as the railway be open to Bragado; the works are being actively pushed forward, and this will also much enhance the value of the land. The official valuation is set down at \$200,000 per square league. Total valuation of the partido \$6,000,000, against \$3,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$24,000. The returns of stock are—135,000 cows, 24,596 horses, 246,000 mestiza sheep, 1,000 creole sheep, and 8,000 pigs, being an average of 1,300 cows, 250 horses, and 2,500 sheep per square league.

Agriculture has, within a few years, made rapid strides in these far western camps. There are 370 chacras under tillage, covering an area of 60,000 acres. Hitherto the only check to this industry was the expense and difficulty of freight to Buenos Ayres, but now the prolongation of the Western Railway as far as Bragado will give a great impulse to the growing of grain. Moreover, the Indians, who seek only for booty of horned cattle and horses, will no longer be felt in these districts, for they always recede at the advance of the ploughshare and the locomotive. The population returns are—3,604 Argentines, 180 Spaniards, 144 French, 183 Indians, 62 Italians, 6 English, 35 various—total 4,222. Coliqueo's tribe of «friendly Indians» is settled here as a protection to the frontier; the cacique is a large muscular man, about 50 years of age, not bad looking, and

wears the uniform of a major in the Argentine army; his people are squalid and repulsive, with no other trace of Christianity than that they generally cause their children to be baptized. They live in their «tolderias,» groups of wretched huts, which they shift at times for the pasture of their horses. The Government gives them monthly rations of tobacco, yerba, and wild mares; they are extremely fond of the flesh of the latter.

The village of Bragado, also called Santa Rosa, after the patroness of South America, is picturesquely situated at the foot of a gentle slope, near the lagoon of Saladillo, and not far from those of Bragado Grande and Cassio. Its first importance was as a fort on the Indian frontier, but it is destined to become in a short time a great western settlement in the midst of the Pampas, within 7 hours' journey by rail of the city of Buenos Ayres. It has a church, state schools, 22 good shops, and 65 rateable houses; of the latter the best are those of Patricio Arza, O. Ramirez, B. Roque, Tréjo, Sarrieta, St. Paul, Osuna, J. Milberg, Miñaque, Mansilla, Michad, Lopez, Fernandez, Basarte, and Argain, all valued from \$50,000 upwards. The partido has 71 houses and 994 ranchos; 5 alcaldes, 20 tenientes, 14 policemen, and 950 National Guards. The state schools are attended by 62 boys and 65 girls. Justice of Peace, Don German Vega; Curate, Rev. Luis Leoneti; Postmaster, Don Maximo Fosferes; Municipality, six members.

Bragado is $9\frac{1}{2}$ leagues S.W. of Chivilcoy, 4 W. of the Rio Salado, 9 N.W. of 25 de Mayo, $9\frac{1}{2}$ N.E. of Nueve de Julio, 5 E. of Fort Rauch, and 14 S.E. of Junin.

Nueve de Julio.

Situate 48 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, is a new and thinly settled district with an area of about 150 square leagues. Until recently the only inhabitants were a tribe of friendly Indians and a regiment of soldiers to garrison this part of the frontier. The present English population is over 100.

The partido is bounded on the N. by Lincoln and Bragado, on the W. by Indian territory, on the S. by the same, and on the E. by Veinte-y-Cinco de Mayo. It has no rivers or arroyos, but is interspersed with numerous lagoons. Nearly half the settlers are English, but the camps are so exposed to Indian forays that the partido makes comparatively slow progress. The estancias of Smith and Kavanagh lie between the Socabon and Pozo Pampa, N.E. of the new town. Those of Douthat, Dillon, Darbyshire, and Nield, are on the frontier line, between Forts Picazo and Cruz de Guerra, on the route from Veinte-y-Cinco de Mayo to Nueve de Julio. The lands of Lynch,

Lewis, Young, Daly, and Wallace, are on the extreme S.W., between Cañada Verde and the lagoons of Saladillo and Union. Michael Murray is near Laguna las Piedras, and the furthest western settlers are Veron, Lopez, and Manterola, near the Algarrobas lagoon. Carlisle and Salvarezza are close to Fort Picazo, Messrs. Dunkler, Wampach and Terry are on the N.W., adjoining the partido of Lincoln. The lands of Agrelo Bullrich, Trejo, Lima, and Vedia are near the Tres Lagunas, on which the new town is being built: this point is 48 leagues W.S.W. of the city of Buenos Ayres. The chief estancieros are the following:—

Henry Smith,
John Smith,
Francis Dowling,
James Gaynor,
George Dickson,
Walter Stephenson,
Thomas Douthat,
Charles Darbyshire,
John Dillon,
John Dick,
E. J. Stephenson,
W. Batchelor,
George Dixon,
Foster,
Aug. Masoni,
Miguel Baschetti,
James Kavanagh,
C. Martinez,
E. Agrelo,
J. Luna,
Trejo,
Shaw,
Wampach,
Seng,
Michael Murray,
Cuculla,
Ocampos,
Carlisle,
Frederick Nield,
J. Malbran,
M. Delfrade,

A. Chammar,
Lima,
Buireu,
Dunkler,
Terry,
Veron,
Diaz,
Ares,
Salvarezza,
P. D. Lynch,
Mrs. Young,
John Lewis,
Albarracin,
Vedia,
Rubio,
Romero,
Manterola,
Maya,
Urbero,
Fernandez,
Patrick Daly,
John Wallace,
Haedo,
Bullrich,
Naon,
Cazon,
Gonsalez,
Lopez,
Cuenca,
Amadeo;
Agote,

The returns of stock are—110,400 cows, 34,641 horses, 7,500 fine sheep, 43,000 mestiza sheep, 8,300 creole sheep, and 10,400 pigs, being an average of 700 cows, 200 horses, and 350 sheep per square league.

Agriculture is also making good progress in these virgin camps; there are 135 chacras, with 5,000 acres under tillage. The official returns of population shew a preponderance of tame Indians, viz :—1,908 Indians, 920 Argentines, 55 Italians, 80 Spaniards, 51 English, 33 French, 3 Germans, 3 various; total 3,053. There are 46 houses and 734 ranchos, including 23 shops: 4 alcaldes, 7 tenientes, 8 policemen, 194 soldiers of the line, and 422 National Guards.

The new town of Nueve de Julio is in course of construction, but as yet there is neither church nor state-school. The partido is called after the Independence day (9th of July 1816). Justice of Peace, Don Estevan Trejo; Post-master, Edelmiro Moura; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$46,000.

An Irish farmer who recently visited this part of the frontier reports as follows :—«I was anxious to see the Indians and their country, and started from Villa Luxan on the 5th inst. for the Toldos of Coliqueo. The journey took me eight days. I visited Coliqueo's tribe, and found them living much like the Gauchos: the men and women wear clothes, and the men speak Spanish. On the 10th I visited the Cacique who shook hands with me warmly and said that I was the first Irishman he had met. He asked me for General Mitre and Governor Alsina, and complained bitterly that the Government had not built a church and school for the squaws. There are three pulperias in the «tolderia», one belonging to Señor Martinez of Buenos Ayres, who treated me most hospitably. The Indians are mostly engaged in agriculture, and have chacras of maize; they have also large herds of mares and cows. They seem very long-lived, for I met a woman apparently over 100 years old. I stopped two days with them, and they treated me very kindly; the Cacique Coliqueo seems a very decent fellow. The lands are very coarse, nothing but «paja», «pasto puna», and the hard thistles; they are only fit for horned cattle, and will take a long time for refining, before being fit for sheep. On my way out I saw several flocks, sound and in good condition; the usual run for a flock is a couple of leagues every way. The camps abound in deer and partridges. The chief English estancieros are Dowling and Gaynor, who are most hospitable to strangers: they have some stock on their lands. A batch of enterprising young Englishmen would do well out here, and could easily get cattle to start with. Land is to be had on all sides for sale: from Bragado to the frontier the price of land in «enfiteusis» is from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per league.

Crossing the frontier-line you can get land for nothing, and of a better quality: there are several estancias as far as 15 leagues beyond the frontier. The Nueve de Julio is a well-built town, with a fine view of the country for about five leagues around: the Justice of Peace is a most hospitable man, and well liked by the settlers.»

Among the Englishmen recently established in this district are Mr. Edward Gillyat of the Estancia Espartillares, and Mr. Patrick MacDonnell of Estancia Loncagne.

Unzue Hermanos are the largest landed proprietors in the partido. The camps are excellent for cattle, &c., and last season fat sheep were sold at \$30m/c. There are «poblaciones» 10 leagues outside the town of 9 de Julio. The town has improved rapidly, all the houses being azoteas. It has four «fondas,» any amount of Billiards, Church, Juzgado, &c. The land is first-class for growing wheat, maize, &c., and the immense «cañadones» offer many advantages for the breeding and fattening of pigs; a branch of industry the most lucrative and least attended to. Camp that was bought three or four years ago at \$40,000 a league is now worth from \$80,000 to \$100,000 (enfiteusis right), clear proof that camp in the Nueve de Julio is a lucrative investment. The Englishmen hold annual steeplechases and racès, and «tool their fils» over some stiff fences, to the surprise of the Gauchos, in a style worthy of the old country.

The new town will be situate 12 leagues W. of 25 de Mayo, 9 S.W. of Bragado, and 9 S. of Fort Ituzaingo.

Veinte-y-Cinco de Mayo.

Situate 35 leagues W.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 210 square leagues. The partido is bounded on the N. by the Rio Salado, which separates it from Chivilcoy, on the W. by Bragado and Nueve de Julio, and on the S. and E. by Saladillo. It comprises 136 estancias.

This is a rising partido, much in favor with sheep-farmers, the number of Irish alone being nearly a thousand. A few years ago it was almost looked upon as Indian country. An Englishman, about 8 leagues beyond the village of 25 de Mayo, writes:—«I settled here in 1864 and had only one neighbor, now I have 30 houses in sight, around me. I have built a comfortable house, planted 1,000 trees, and fenced in a large chacra. In the care of sheep I find mud walls answer best for corrals; making them four feet high they cost me \$9 per yard, and afford great shelter to the

sheep from the cold winds of winter.» There is plenty of public land in this partido, and this part of the country is well suited for beginners, being within a day's journey of town, via Mercedes. The land is valued at \$200,000 per league. Total valuation 13,000,000, against 5,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$52,000. The returns of stock are—289,876 cows. 26,263 horses, 5,599 fine sheep, 922,622 mestiza sheep, 83,200 reole sheep, 12,610 pigs, being an average of 1400 cows, 130 horses, and 5,000 sheep per square league. The following are the principal estancias—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
S. Unzué,	18	Rua,	2
Fernandez bros.,	10	Olmos,	1
Atucha,	7	Chavarry,	1
Blayer,	5	Elliff bros.,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Peralta,	5	Cabrera,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Sosa,	$5\frac{1}{8}$	Arias,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Olivera,	5	Rodriguez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Villarasa,	5	Carrizo,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Villanueva,	5	Gasparron,	1
B. Salas,	5	Pereda,	4
Saldariaga,	2	Wright bros.,	$3\frac{1}{8}$
Berraondo,	2	George Keen,	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Lugones,	1	H. Keen,	2
Haedo,	1	R. Perez,	$2\frac{1}{4}$
Davel,	1	George Dickson,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Casavalle,	$\frac{3}{4}$	F. Whelan,	2
Carci,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Quintaná,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Ferreya,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Zamudio,	1
Piñero,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Leguisamon,	2
Farias,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Cano,	1
Montero,	5	Islas,	1
Morillo,	4	Romero,	1
Galindez,	3	Barrales,	1
Gomez,	3	Gonsalez,	1
Risso,	3	Martinez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Ghiraldo,	3	Gutierrez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Baldevinto,	3	Monsalvo,	1
A. Lezica,	4	Saavedra,	$\frac{1}{2}$
E. Diaz,	4	Cruz Casas,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Dominguez,	2	Ybarra,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Abrego,	2		

Messrs. Unzue have another extensive property in this partido; it lies N. of the town of the 25 de Mayo, running four leagues in a straight line from Laguna del Tigre to the borders of the Bians estancia in Bragado: they have also a large estancia near Arroyo Pantanoso, about eight leagues south of the town. The Fernandez estancia is outside the frontier, between Monigotes and Lake Betel, a few leagues S.W. of Cruz de Guerra fort. Messrs. Ghiraldo, Berraondo, Abrego, Attucha and Cano are just inside the fort. Lezica's estancia at Lake Galvan, and that of Diaz at Las Encadenadas, are about four leagues N.W. of the town. Estancia Potrillo, near a Lagoon of the same name, is the property of Don Domingo Olivera, and between this and the town we meet the estancias of Galindez and Saldarriaga. The lands of Villarasa and Blayer lie S.W. of Olivera's, and further out still are those of Plaza Montero and Salas, near Fort Vallimanca, on a lagoon of the same name: this fort is 47 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres city, and 12 leagues S.S.E. of the new town Nueve de Julio: the only intermediate fort is Cruz de Guerra. Some of the most valuable estancias of the partido are those on the S. bank of the Salado, viz.—Peralta, G. Keen, Dickson, H. Keen, Cabrera, Villanueva, Ybarrá, and Gasparron. The stranger will find excellent shooting and the kindest hospitality at Mr. Keen's estancia of Pedernales. Mr. Keen is an old resident, and was the first to settle so far out. Up to 1810 the Salado was regarded as the Indian frontier, but in that year the first native estancieros crossed the river: at that time the total population of the province of Buenos Ayres (not including the city) was only 40,000. There were, however, few who ventured beyond the Salado till the famous Colonel Rauch (a German) made his great campaign against the Indians in 1822, when the savages were driven far into the desert. The camps of Messrs. Mathew and Anthony Elliff, and Wright bros., are further S., between Medano de los Huesos and Lagunas de Gomez. Pereda's and Risso's lands are near the Cerrilla de la Mongoli, and Morillo and Gomez are a few leagues N.E. of the town, near Laguna del Milagro and sundry smaller lakes.

Agriculture has attained a great development, there being no fewer than 512 chacras, covering an area of 180,000 acres of tilled land: this is an average of 350 acres, or 80 cuadras to each chacra.

The population returns are—Argentines 5,090, Spaniards 2333, English 600, Italians 307, Indians 386, French 72, Germans 5, various 28: total 8,821. There are 68 houses and 1,030 ranchos, including over 100 shops and pulperias: 5 alcaldes, 20 tenientes, 14 policemen, and 1700 National Guards. As an instance of the rapid growth of this district, it is to be

noted that in 1861 there were only 60,000 sheep, and now there are over a million. The Irish of this partido are visited by Father Leahy, from the Fortin de Areco.

The village of 25 de Mayo was, until very recently, only a military outpost, but now it has 1,500 inhabitants, a church, schools, several shops, and 68 rateable houses: of these last the best are those of—Abrego, Rivero, Senobia, Lalanne bros., Sanchez & Co., Bibolini, Fernandez, Pedrasa, Islas, Ibarra, Basabé, Magdaleno, and Bernedo, all valued at \$50,000 and upwards. The state-schools are attended by 40 boys and 76 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Victorino Abrego; Curate, Rev. Manuel R. Soto; Post-master, Don Pedro A. Duval; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$360,000.

The town of 25 de Mayo is 12 leagues E. of Nueve de Julio, 8 N.E. of Fort Cruz de Guerra, $8\frac{1}{2}$ N.W. of Saladillo, 8 S.W. of the Rio Salado, and 9 S.E. of Bragado.

CHAP. VI.

THE WESTERN PARTIDOS.

FLORES TO CHIVILCOY.

San José de Flores.

SITUATE nearly two leagues west of Buenos Ayres, is a suburb of the city and has been fully described in Section B, pp. 88-90. The partido has only six square leagues of land, entirely laid out in gardens, meadows, country houses, &c. Its farming stock does not count 10,000 head of sheep and cattle. The partido is bounded on the north by Belgrano and San Martín, on the west by Moron and Matanzas, on the south by the River Matanza, and on the east by the city of Buenos Ayres. There are no rivers or lagoons, but the soil is very rich and highly cultivated. The average value of land is assessed at \$4,000 per cuadra, equal to \$6,400,000 per square league. Total valuation \$30,000,000, against \$17,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$120,000. The Flores Road is being at present paved, and there is also a project for a tramway to town. The village boasts a handsome church and state school, the latter attended by 91 boys and 126 girls: there are some second-rate shops, and about 1,500 inhabitants. The population of the partido comprises—2,841 Argentines, 1,641 Italians, 355 French, 330 Spaniards, 169 English, 40 Germans, 2 Indians, 87 various—total 5,435.

The principal quintas, with their valuations, are—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
José Bergalo,	\$560,000	M. Silva,	240,000
V. Zavala,	400,000	H. J. Ropes,	200,000
P. Alais,	300,000	Señora Visillac,	200,000
Catalina N.,	200,000	Denolle,	190,000
V. Martinez,	200,000	T. Fresco,	120,000
S. Negrotto,	220,000	H. Gowland,	136,000
R. Herber,	240,000	R. Gaete,	136,000
J. Coronel,	200,000	F. Gimenez,	120,000
Señora Dorrego,	240,000	Villanueva,	100,000
L. Martinez,	320,000	V. Silvera,	160,000
D. Olivera,	268,000	G. Rodriguez,	160,000
A. Pereyra,	400,000	J. Piana,	184,000
M. Farias,	256,000	M. Pazos,	120,000
Charles Diehl,	128,000	Mendi,	120,000
David Methven,	120,000	Larroude,	100,000
M. Casares,	120,000	Galindez,	100,000
A. Conde,	120,000	A. Juarez,	100,000
Unzué,	120,000	P. Gamas,	100,000
L. Segurola,	200,000	M. Giraldez,	120,000
J. Rivadavia,	120,000	Stegmann,	160,000
M. Quirno,	160,000	Beulenez,	280,000
Señora Portela,	104,000	M. Costa,	200,000
Machin,	120,000	M. Flores,	180,000
Labrue,	120,000	A. Lezica,	180,000
F. M. Cruz,	100,000	Del Pont,	160,000
Ianuz,	144,000	Lacasa,	160,000
Señora Hurtado,	120,000	Ponce,	160,000
C. Guedes,	120,000	F. Lezica,	120,000
Eraspume,	144,000	C. Murga,	120,000
R. Segurola,	360,000	Vr. Martinez,	120,000
J. Terreros,	240,000	Soler's factory,	160,000
Lorenzo Torres,	240,000	Velez Sarsfield,	160,000
Navarro Viola,	200,000	J. Silva,	160,000
M. Morillo,	400,000	A. Terreros,	100,000
Señora Garmendi,	280,000	Echapon,	160,000
Benavente,	200,000	F. Visillac,	152,000
G. Diche,	240,000	P. Valle,	120,000
Perez Millan,	200,000	Segurola,	144,000

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
C. Silvera,	240,000	N. Riestra, 80,000	
M. Marquez,	192,000	J. Castillo, 120,000	
Edward Lumb,	160,000	General Conesa, 120,000	
F. Blanco,	108,000	J. Casanova, 100,000	
F. Gowland,	108,000	M. Belgrano, 160,000	
Isaguirre,	120,000	Mrs. Donovan, 50,000	
S. Gonzalez,	160,000	P. Rosenblad, 44,000	
D. Gamas,	160,000	Cavilla, 144,000	
Escarione,	144,000	Señora Bejarano, 144,000	
N. Daso,	160,000	Amespil, 160,000	
J. B. Cañon, 120,000		C. Darbyshire, 64,000	
J. Canton, 120,000		J. P. Boyd, 76,000	
C. Blanco, 100,000		Nield, 80,000	
W. Daws, 52,000		M. Forrester, 80,000	
John Hughes, 200,000			

In Section B. we have inaccurately put down Mr. Terrero's quinta as belonging to Doña Manuelita Rosas, his sister-in-law; the design of the building was planned by her, and hence it took her name, although it was never her property. Justice of Peace, Don Bartolo Vivot; Curate, Rev. Andres R. Otero; Postmaster, Don G. Castro. Municipality, six members. Municipal revenue, \$205,000.

San José de Flores is 1 league N. of the Matanzas river, $1\frac{1}{2}$ S. of Belgrano, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ E. of Moron.

Matanzas.

Situate four leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 31 square leagues, of which 11 are devoted to agriculture, and 20 to sheep-farming. It is bounded on the N. by Moron and Merlo, on the W. by Las Heras, on the S. by Matanzas river, which separates it from the Lomas de Zamora and Cañuelas, on the E. by Flores.

The Ezcurra estancia, commonly called del Pino, lies between the Arroyo Morales and the river of Matanzas. Those of Barnachea and Rodriguez are further south, on the Arroyo de los Pozos. Mr. Gahan's estate is one of the finest, having formerly belonged to the family of the Dictator Rosas; the house is surrounded by a large plantation, and distant about 3 leagues from the village of Merlo. Mr. Gahan is one of our oldest and most prosperous

Irish residents, and has another large estancia at Navarro. The estancias of Villamayor and Zamudio are on the borders of Las Heras, and those of Anchorena and Guerrero are N. of the Arroyo Morales. The estancia lands are assessed at \$960,000 per square league. The stock returns are—9,861 cows, 2,773 horses, 1,200 fine sheep, 114,335 mestiza sheep, and 68 pigs; being an average of 600 cows, 150 horses, and 6700 sheep per square league.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Ezcurra,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	Carriso, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Almaraz,	3	Robledo,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Bárnechea,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aguirre,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Merlo, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Alvarado,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Anchorena,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Rodriguez, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
J. B. Ramos,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Guerrero,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Villamayor, family,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Pasdorf,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Thomas Gahan,	1	Paez,	$\frac{1}{4}$
M. Senas,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Sosa,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Zamudio, family,	2		

There are 161 chacras, covering 70,000 acres of tillage. The principal are:—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
E. Ramos Mejia,	560	Mrs. Stinger,	147
D. Posse,	594	H. Schoo,	103
Lino Lagos,	426	Tobar, family,	100
Laas' heirs,	506	Ezcurra,	150
J. Elias,	550	Villegas, family,	184
Sra. Achaval,	179	Bomero,	170
S. Gonzalez,	266	Mendez,	133
F. Madero,	580	F. Bravo,	85
F. Madariaga,	660	M. Ramos Mejia, ....	..

The Ramos Mejia property is exceedingly valuable, and runs down to the Matanzas river: it was originally a grant from the King of Spain to Don Juan de Garay, A.D. 1580, for a great victory gained by the latter over the Indians on the banks of this river, which hence derives its name, «matanza» (a great slaughter). The families of Ramos and Madero have magnificent residences built on their grounds. The valuation of the chacra lands varies from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per cuadra. The district is admirably suited for agriculture, being well watered, fertile, and within easy reach of the city. One of the first foreign settlers in this neighborhood, about 40 years

ago, was Mrs. Hannah Burns, who started a dairy-farm here; on two or three occasions her cattle were stolen from her during the civil wars, but she as often rescued them, going in pursuit with a pair of pistols stuck in her belt: she subsequently took an estancia on the Indian frontier, fortifying her house with a fosse and rampart on which she mounted two field-pieces; meantime her nephew managed the estancia near town. This heroic woman at last died from taking a drink of cold water on a hot day in summer, about fifteen years ago, at her frontier fortress, aged over sixty years.

The total valuation of the partido of Matanzas is 31,000,000, against 16,000,000 in 1861. Contribucion tax, \$124,000. There are barely fifty Irish in the district. The population returns are—917 Argentines, 220 Italians, 38 Spaniards, 36 Germans, 30 French, 5 English, 37 others; total 1313. There are 225 houses and 338 ranchos, including 28 pulperias: four alcaldes, 20 tenientes, 12 policemen.

The village of San Justo is the chief town of the partido; it has a couple of hundred inhabitants, a church, state-schools, two dry-goods' stores, and a few pulperias; there are only nineteen rateable houses, the best being those of Cordero, Picaluga, Peluffo, Elizalde, and Besteche, valued from \$50,000 upwards. General Conesa has a very handsome quinta, not far from the San Martin station, which is the nearest on the Western Railway. The state-schools are attended by 37 boys and 80 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Hilario Schoo, who is also post-master; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$220,000.

San Martin.

Situate four leagues N.W. of Buenos Ayres, is a purely agricultural district, with an area of three and a-half square leagues. The partido is bounded on the north by San Isidro, on the west by the River Las Conchas, which separates it from Moreno, on the south by Moron and Flores, and on the east by Belgrano. There are 93 chacras, comprising 20,000 acres under tillage.

The land is valued at \$1,600 per cuadra, or \$2,500,000 per square league. Total valuation \$9,000,000: it did not form a distinct partido in 1862. The lands are very productive, and in a high state of cultivation. Formerly there was a cabaña for the purest Saxony and Rambouillet rams, started by Señor Vedia, but the establishment was sold out in 1867.

The principal chacras are as follow :—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
Manuel Lynch,	900	M. Funes,	80
Leonardo Pereyra,	791	Blanco,	70
Jacob Fiorini,	320	Boniche,	70
F. Igartua,	275½	F. Luna,	90
Aguirre,	240	A. Salguero,	74
J. Despuy,	160	M. Miró,	60
F. Ballester,	150	M. Sanchez,	60
A. Santamaria,	140	F. Hué,	65
R. Kratzenstein,	120	M. Ballester,	110

The village of San Martin is a mere hamlet, situate on the right of the Western Railway : it has a church, school, and forty-one rateable houses, of which the best belong to Juan Bonifachini, S. Sicardi, J. Echeppure, Lombardo, Camara, and Claurure, valued from \$40,000 upwards. The returns of stock are—6,327 cows, 862 horses, 75 fine sheep, 4,750 mestiza sheep, and 136 pigs. There are 155 houses and 426 ranchos, including 3 shops and 22 pulperias. The returns of population are—1,844 Argentines, 504 Italians, 113 Spaniards, 107 French, 6 English, 1 Indian, 91 various—total 2,666. There are 4 alcaldes, 16 tenientes, and 9 policemen. Contribution tax, \$36,000. Justice of Peace, Don Juan M. Campos; Curate, Rev. José Leonetti; Postmaster, Don Eustaguio Marin. San Martin will increase in importance when Messrs. Rubio & Foley carry out their projected railway from Floresta to the Luxan river.

Moron.

The village of Moron is one of the most important stations on the Western Railway, distant about fourteen miles west of the city of Buenos Ayres. It is the head of the partido of the same name, which including the village has about 4,000 souls; more than two-thirds of these are foreigners.

The partido is bounded on the N.W. by the Rio Las Conchas, which separates it from Moreno, on the W. by Merlo, on the S. by Matansas, and on the E. by Flores. The Rio Las Conchas and its tributary, the Cañada de Moron, are the only water-courses of the district.

Moron is a great resort for families passing the summer in the country, being an hour's ride in the cars from the city, and is generally considered healthy. Its appearance is lively and important, and it is undoubtedly

going a-head. The plaza is one of the neatest of any town in the province: it is well laid out with good walks and trees. The chapel is small, but the Municipality have contracted for the erection of a splendid new church, with three naves, which when finished will cost over a million of dollars currency, principally to come from public lands that are now being sold by auction. The Juzgado and free-schools are elegant and commodious public buildings. The cemetery, a short distance to the south, is an honor to the village: it is neat, well situated, and properly cared.

Many natives and foreigners have handsome residences in the village, among the latter Messrs. Koch, Laplane, La Roche, Garcia, and others: at short distances from the village there are some fine country seats, such as those of Messrs. Coffin, Garbeler, Repetto, Masias, Gaviña, Keiman, &c.

On the road leading to the north from the village, a fine bridge has been built by the Municipality over the Cañada de Moron, and another by a private company, is now finished, over the Rio de las Conchas, at Paso de Morales, close to a valuable water mill belonging to Mr. Louis Langevin; these facilities for traffic from the northern partidos were urgently required, and will soon prove of great advantage to Moron.

This partido was formerly large, but has been greatly reduced of late to form the partidos of Merlo, Las Heras, &c. Its area at present is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues, entirely absorbed in chacras and quintas, cultivated mostly by Italians and Basques, who prosper wonderfully and are daily becoming owners of the land. The demand for good chacras is brisk, and prices are advancing. Recent sales have been made of Bañados on the Rio de las Conchas, some two or three leagues from the village, at from \$1,000 to \$2,320 per cuadra. High lands, according to circumstances, are worth \$2,500 to \$6,000 per cuadra. In the village building lots are worth from \$500 to \$1,500 per vara of frontage by 50 deep.

Before the formation of the new partidos of Las Heras and Merlo there were some estancias included in the partido, viz.:—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Cascallares,	2	E. Cieza,	1
H. W. Smyth,	1	F. Correa,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Calderon,	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Arroyo,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gil Diaz,	1	Chaves.	$\frac{1}{8}$

There are not at present more than 6,000 sheep in this partido. Mr. Keiman keeps a small flock of Negretti ewes at his chacra for breeding rams; he is the only one now in Moron holding out in this business. The Cabañas Laspiur, the Sociedad Negrettis, the Rambouillet, and lastly the Cabaña Perez Mendoza, hijo, are all done up of late years.

There are 194 chacras, of which the following are the principal:—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
V. Rubio,	\$550,000	T. B. Coffin,	100,000
Burgos,	442,000	R. Marquez,	100,000
Castex,	300,000	V. Diaz,	100,000
Davovedo,	200,000	P. Arispe,	130,000
Matias R. Mejia,	200,000	J. Kock,	160,000
Ex. Ramos Mejia,	140,000	J. Garcia,	100,000
A. Manzanares,	100,000	L. Pellon,	200,000
J. Elias,	120,000	F. Rodriguez,	150,000
John Brack,	200,000	P. Rusio,	150,000
Sra. Alarcon,	115,000	F. Small,	110,000
Sra. Puyrredon,	600,000	Mrs. Stegman,	150,000
F. Madero,	228,000	Sra. Giles,	100,000
S. Loza,	150,000	John Cornell,	132,000
A. Juarez,	100,000	F. Acosta,	100,000
L. Gabeler,	100,000	P. Alvarado,	120,000

A race-course and fair grounds (uniting pleasure with utility) are about being established near the village. This enterprise is regarded with interest, and when completed will undoubtedly attract thousands of visitors.

The smaller holdings of Gerald Dillon, Van Pradt, W. Tinson, John Langdon, and many others were also included, but most of these are no longer of this partido. The returns of stock at that time were—4,936 cows, 1,997 horses, 2,327 fine sheep, 29,052 mestiza sheep, 1,200 creole sheep, being an average of 120 cows, 50 horses, and 800 sheep per square league. The extent of the partido was 40 square leagues; valuation 9,000,000 in 1862, and 25,000,000 in 1865. The valuation of land is \$800,000 per league for estancias, and 1,000 to \$1,500 per cuadra for chacras. The traveller will be much struck with the elegant style of the country-seats of Mr. Coffin, Don Francisco Madero, and the families of Ramos Mejia. Mr. Coffin is a leading American merchant in Buenos Ayres, and has contributed much to the advancement of Moron; his residence, called Ohio Park, is fitted up in the best American style, and provided with all the latest improvements in agricultural implements and machinery.

There is a small theatre at Moron, where balls are given in the summer seasons. The state-schools are attended by 65 boys and 80 girls. The English residents are about fifty in number. Justice of Peace, Don Miguel Naon; Curate, Rev. Francisco Romero; Post-master, Don Andres Abascal; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$270,000.

Moron is $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues N. of the Matanzas river, 2 S.E. of Rio de Las Conchas, 9 N.N.E. of Cañuelas, and 9 E. of Villa Luxan.

Merlo.

Situate 7 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, is a new partido formerly comprised in that of Moron: it is bounded on the N. and W. by Moreno, from which it is separated by the River Conchas, on the S. by Matanzas, and on the E. by Moron. It has an area of $14\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues, and the principal estancias have been already mentioned in speaking of Moron. M. Wyatt Smyth's establishment is often visited by strangers from Europe, the arrangements being in excellent order, and giving a favorable impression of camp life: there is a good deal of land under grain, and the estancia is within a short distance of either the Merlo or Moreno stations. There are numbers of Irish sheep-farmers and puesteros in this partido, and the total English population numbers over 300. The estancias of Don Juan Dillon and Mr. Pearson are near the village of Merlo. The stock returns are—7,255 cows, 4,400 horses, 1,568 fine sheep, 301,312 mestiza do., 664 pigs, being an average of 500 cows, 300 horses, and 21,000 sheep per square league. There are 116 chacras, covering more than 2,000 acres of tilled land. Population returns—1,579 Argentines, 158 English, 110 Spaniards, 52 Italians, 34 French, 2 Germans, 18 various: total 2,003. There are 72 houses and 254 ranchos: 4 Alcaldes, 19 tenientes, and 6 policemen.

Merlo is an insignificant hamlet with a few hundred inhabitants, a Justice of Peace, Municipality, state-schools, and Gothic chapel. The former Justice of Peace was Don Juan Dillon, a gentleman of Irish descent, and until recently there was an Irish curate, Rev. P. J. Dillon, now Diocesan Professor of Theology. There are 18 rateable houses. That built by Mr. Boyd is a neat country-house, and among the foreign residents are Messrs. John Maclean, Blumstein, and Richmond. There is a large mill in the neighborhood, belonging to Messrs. Blumstein and La Roche. The branch railway to Lobos will start from Merlo. Justice of Peace D. Antonio Juarez, Post-master D. Juan Dillon, Municipality six members, Municipal revenue \$250,000. The state-schools are attended by 40 boys and 43 girls.

Moreno.

Situate 8 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 10 square leagues, comprising 25 estancias and 83 chacras.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Alvarez	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	N. Lastra	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sra. Ramirez	$\frac{3}{8}$	Ocampo, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$
F. Poncel	$\frac{3}{8}$	J. Costa,	$\frac{1}{2}$
F. Aguilar,	$\frac{1}{2}$	R. Casco,	$\frac{1}{2}$

The partido is bounded on the N. by Pilar, from which it is separated by the Arroyo Escobar, on the W. by Luxan, on the S. by Las Heras, and on the E. by Merlo. The Alvarez estancia, occupying one-fourth of the partido, is watered by the Arroyos La Chozza and Sauce, and bisected by the line of railway running westward to Luxan. The lands of Alcorta and Casco are situate on the Arroyo de Perros, an affluent of the Conchas river.

The principal chacras are those of Carranza, Gutierrez, Posse, Westers, and Corviere; that of Carranza covering a thousand acres, beautifully cultivated. The cabaña of the late Sr. Alcorta is a handsome property, valued at \$500,000. There are not many of our countrymen in this partido, their number hardly exceeding 100: they are visited by Rev. J. O'Reilly from Villa Luxan. Agriculture is making much progress, there being over 12,000 acres under tillage. The stock returns are—5,950 cows, 3,876 horses, 150 fine sheep, 138,168 mestiza do., 4,200 creole do., and 810 pigs, being an average of 600 cows, 400 horses, and 15,000 sheep to the square league. The land is valued at \$450,000 per league. Total valuation 6 millions, Contribucion tax \$24,000. Population returns—1,690 Argentines, 156 French, 78 Italians, 41 English, 35 various, 61 Spaniards, 2 Germans; total 2,063. There are 63 houses and 319 ranchos; 3 alcaldes, 10 tenientes, 7 policemen, and 254 National Guards.

The village of Moreno consists of 35 houses and a dozen shops irregularly grouped around a large plaza. There are also a church, state-schools, and a good inn (Labastie). The traveller's notice will be attracted by an unfinished building at a corner of the plaza, with a lofty «mirador»; this was the work of a Frenchman employed to build the church, who died suddenly before completing his picturesque abode. Moreno was a place of some trifling importance when it was the terminus of the Western Railway, but now it is dropping to decay. The state-schools are attended by 30 boys and 34 girls. Justice of Peace, Don Emilio Carranza; Post-master, Don Felipe Vicenter; Municipality, five members; Municipal revenue, \$100,000. The only English residents who have houses in the village are Messrs. Henry Gowland and Joseph Cesario. Mr. Beutefuhr has an extensive dairy, with steam-power attached, and sends in the butter by

train to the city; he has also a large establishment for rearing silk-worms, an industry that begins to assume some importance.

Las Heras.

Situate eleven leagues west of Buenos Ayres, is a partido of recent formation, with an area of thirty-seven square leagues, entirely devoted to sheep-farming. It has fifty-one estancias averaging three-quarters of a league each. Most of this partido was taken from that of Lujan, under which heading the principal estancias will be found, as we are unable to divide with sufficient accuracy the estancias belonging respectively to Las Heras and Lujan. The partido is bounded on the North by Lujan, on the West by Navarro, on the South by Lobos and Cañuelas, and on the East by Matanzas. The only water-courses are the La Choya, Durazno, and La Paja. The returns of stock for the new partido are—6,453 cows, 7,549 horses, 5,718 fine sheep 642,356 mestiza ditto, and 361 pigs; being an average of 170 cows, 200 horses, and 17,000 sheep per square league. The land is decidedly over-stocked, and in seasons of drought the losses in sheep have been considerable. The number of Irish farmers and 'puesteros' is very large, at least 200; the principal estancias are those of Plomer, Casey, Lynch, Correa, Gonzalez, Dillon, Zamudio, Villamayor, &c. The official returns of population are—1,219 Argentines, Italians 135, French 203, Spaniards 71, English 41, others 21; total 1,670. There are fifty houses and 439 ranchos: six alcaldes, twenty-three tenientes, nine policemen.

The town of the partido is to be called Rodriguez, after a general of that name, but as yet there are only seven houses; the site was marked out by Governor Saavedra, a couple of years ago, and he ordered that the church, whenever built, should be dedicated to St. Patrick, as most of the neighbors are Irishmen. Las Heras was the name of another Argentine general, in whose honor the partido is so called. The land here would be very suitable for agriculture, having the railway to carry the produce into town. It is within two hours' journey of Buenos Ayres.

Lujan.

Situate nearly 14 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, is the greatest Irish settlement in South America; before the recent demarcation of new partidos, it had an area of 40 square leagues, comprising 179 estancias, with an average of $\frac{1}{4}$ a league each.

The partido is bounded on the N. by Capilla del Señor, on the N.W. by Giles, on the W. by Mercedes, on the S. by Navarro and Las Heras, and on the east by Moreno.

The chief estancias are the following :—

Name.	S. League.	Name.	S. League.
Olivera,	$3\frac{1}{8}$	Mrs. Maxwell,	$\frac{1}{4}$
N. Gonzalez,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	P. Burgess,	$\frac{1}{4}$
M. Biaus,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	J. Contreras,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Cruz Casas,	$1\frac{1}{8}$	J. Benites,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Peter Ham,	$1\frac{1}{8}$	David Clavin,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Acuña,	1	Rodriguez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
P. Garaghan,	$\frac{3}{4}$	John Beris,	$\frac{1}{4}$
B. Irigoyen,	$\frac{3}{4}$	S. Casas,	$\frac{1}{8}$
L. Lagos,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Sra Caraballo,	$\frac{1}{4}$
L. Casey,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Cheves family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
O. Lynch,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Cano, family,	$1\frac{1}{8}$
López, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Casco, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Manzanares,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Alexander Cook,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Pacheco's heirs,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Cordova, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Villalba,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gutierrez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Villarino,	$\frac{3}{4}$	M. Kenny,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Ulrich & Co.,	$\frac{3}{4}$	M. Fitzsimons,	$\frac{1}{6}$
J. Murphy,	$\frac{1}{2}$	D. Kenny,	$\frac{1}{6}$
Navarro, family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Mendez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
R. Peralta,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Peñalva, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$
P. Colman,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Ramirez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sra. Achaval,	$\frac{3}{8}$	Saavedra, family,	1
John Brown,	$\frac{1}{4}$		

This has always been a favorite partido for sheep-farmers, on account of its central position and fine camps. It is watered by the Luxan river and the arroyos La Choza, Durazno, Arias, &c. Land was sold a few years ago so high as £10,000 sterling per square league, owing to the great competition among Irishmen themselves. The official valuation is little more than a-third of that sum, viz., \$450,000 per league. Total valuation 22,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$88,000. The Irish population in the partido is over 5,000, and they are for the most part thriving and industrious. Several of them are possessors of decent fortunes, with valuable tracts of land and thousands of superior mestiza sheep. Besides the estancieros above-named there are hundreds on rented land or in partnership as medianeros.

The Irish settlers are so numerous that they form more than half the population of the partido, including of course their children, who are put down in the official returns as Argentines. They were the first to try sheep-farming, which now forms the riches of the district and of Buenos Ayres, the partido of Luxan yielding over 120,000 arrobes of wool, say 3,000,000^l per annum, worth £50,000 sterling. The stranger will do well to visit the estancia of Mr. John Brown, Messrs. Ham, Kelly, Casey Lynch and others. The first-named resides about two leagues south of Luxan, and has a fine estancia-house newly built, and surrounded with a quinta and peach-plantation: our hospitable countryman is native of Wexford, and has resided many years in the country. An easy gallop of half an hour further south takes us to Mr. Hamm's large estancia, where the owner will give you dinner and bed, and you can start next morning for Casey's, another valuable establishment, in the direction of Navarro.

Mr. Owen Lynch's estancia is near Moreno, with a comfortable farmhouse. Fitzsimmons, Burgess and Murphy are north of the River Lujan; Garaghan and Cruz Casas are south of La Choza; Irigoyen, Lagos and David Clavin lie between the Arroyo Durazno and La Choza. The large estancia of Don Domingo Oliviera is traversed by the railway, and watered on either side by the Lujan river and Cañada de Arias.

The official returns of stock are—16,223 cows, 9,536 horses, 750 fine sheep, 790,400 mestiza ditto, 6,000 creole ditto, and 2,710 pigs; being an average of 400 cows, 250 horses, and 20,000 sheep per square league. The lands are greatly over-stocked, having fully double their proper complement. In seasons of drought the losses have been ruinous, but there is usually in summer a great crop of thistles which protects the young grass from the scorching heat. The land south of the town is some of the richest in the province, especially a vein of five or six leagues in width which runs from Moreno to Leones, a distance of about fourteen leagues. In the north and north-west the land is good, but near the town it is light and uncertain. This partido is not at all suited for beginners. If the Municipality would encourage agriculture by bestowing farm-lots, as in the Swiss Colony of Baradero, it would add immensely to the wealth and importance of the partido.

Agriculture is making some progress, there being 363 chacras, with an extent of 12,000 acres under tillage, or about an average of eight cuadras to each chacra. Most of these are in the immediate vicinity of the town, and Italians and other foreigners raise wheat, vegetables and fruit in large quantities. The traffic with the neighboring partidos, by means of bullock-carts, was for a long time much impeded by the difficult passes of the Lujan and other rivers, but now bridges are at all the points of most importance.

The fine estancia belonging to the family of Olivera is $3\frac{1}{4}$ leagues in extent, and situated in this partido, between the towns of Lujan and Mercedes. On the estancia there are five large «montes,» and no less than thirty-five «puestos,» the majority of which are rented to Irish estancieros, and the remainder are used by the proprietor as stations for «capones» sent in to the Buenos Ayres market, from his other estancia, called La Potrilla. The following is a list of the principal tenants on the land :—

Name.	Puestos.	Name.	Puestos.
Bernard Heavy,	4	Thomas White,	1
John Brown,	3	Pierre Elicabe,	1
Bernard Lynes,	2	John Slammon,	1
Michael Gardner,	4	Joseph M'Laughlin,	1
John Kelly,	1	Thomas Kane,	1
Patrick Sullivan,	1	James Doughton,	1
Thomas Keegan,	1	Lorenzo Carcagno,	1
J. Keenan,	1	Thomas Clavin,	1

On the river Lujan, and about eight squares from the principal station of the Western railway, is the station called Olivera, which is a great convenience for those living on this estate, the farmers being able to send their wool and hides by rail into town at 25 per cent. less than what is charged by bullock carts. The estancia is within three hours ride of town; «capones» from the estancia can also be sent by rail twice a day to town. In the Estancia de las Acacias, which is only six squares from the railway station, is the fine ram breeding establishment so well known; one flock is composed of pure Rambouillet, selected from the flocks of the celebrated French farm of M. Gilbert de Wideville; there is also another flock, 1,500 head of pure Negrettes from the Remedios, which is being crossed with Rambouillet. The estancia is fronted by the river Lujan for a league and a-half, and on the opposite side has the Arroyo de Arias, from whence springs the fine river Las Conchas, which falls into the Paraná, in front of the town of the same name. The land is extremely fertile, and along the River Lujan high and adapted for chacras, and on the other side the land is low, skirted by beautiful «bañados,» and peculiarly adapted for sheep farming, being freed from all danger of drought. The family of Olivera has also a fine estancia in the partido 25 de Mayo, six leagues distant from that town, and six leagues in extent. It is fronted by the River Saladillo, and the well-known «laguna» called Potrillo. There are thirty «puestos» on the land, and about 50,000 fine mestiza sheep, nearly all cared by Irishmen, who hold the flocks on thirds. There are also in this estate about 5,000 head of horned cattle, and 500 mares, divided into different

«rodeos.» A diligence every second day leaves Chivilcoy for the 25 de Mayo, on the arrival of the first train from Buenos Ayres: this coach arrives at the 25 de Mayo at night. When the Lobos railroad will be finished this estancia will be as near it as to Chivilcoy. Nearly all the peones, puesteros, and shepherds on these fine estates, are British subjects. Away in the far South, at Quequen Grande, the Olivera family also own a large estancia, some ten leagues of Government land, but as yet there are no foreigners on this property, which is purely a cattle farm, having about 11,000 head of horned cattle, 200 horses, and 3,000 mares. The estancia house is brick, and built overlooking the Arroyo Quequen, at the Paso de Otero, on the hills of Malatúé: this fine estate is distant about 270 miles from the city. This wealthy estanciero family is also owner of the Estancia de los Remedios, in the district or partido of San José de Flores, as already mentioned in the list of proprietors in that partido. This small ram breeding estancia is not far from the Floresta station, which is only thirty minutes ride from the city; it is 400 squares square—28 squares are under peach mounts, 50 squares under alfalfa, which are rented to farmers; also large fields for caring cattle on the way into market, fenced with nandubay posts and wire; the charge for minding the cattle is one paper dollar per head per day, or \$40m/c per month for horses. On this fine farm Mr. Edward Olivera, one of the most enterprising of Argentines, resides. On the farm is a fine Negretti flock picked from the flocks of Keller de Chrezelitz, in Silesia, and from Moideuteu and Ischendorff, in Mecklenburg; the fleeces of rams give an average weight of 20℔ to 22℔ in the grease, and the sheep about 17℔ per fleece. The general average for the sheep is 13℔ per fleece. This flock was started in 1858, with only twenty-eight sheep and three rams, from Chrezetitz; in 1865, three rams, Moideuteu, were introduced, and in 1868 three more rams from Ischendorff; each year the flocks are revised, and all animals not up to the mark are taken out, there only remaining 200 breeding sheep, the remainder sold, thus the breed from this flock is now scattered over this Republic, the Banda Oriental, and Entre-Rios, and to be found at all the best estancias. Few men have labored more to advance the industrial interests of this country than Mr. E. Olivera, the proprietor, who has travelled over Europe, and inspected all the very best farms in Germany. Since his return to the River Plate he has been a prominent writer in the newspapers on all such matters, and is chief editor of the *Rural Magazine*, a publication of real practical worth, and supported by the principal estancieros in this country.

Villa Lujan is one of the oldest and most historic towns in the Province. The royal schedule for its foundation bears date 1756, and the present

church was begun in 1760 and finished three years later. The place was besieged by the Indians and miraculously saved by a fog in 1780. At the beginning of the present century it was the starting-point for travellers proceeding to the upper Provinces; and during the English invasion of 1806 the vice-roy Liniers escaped hither from B. Ayres with the bullion and treasures of the Cabildo. In 1832, Rosas imprisoned Gen. Paz and kept him here seven years. The population of the town at present is 1,500 and there are two handsome State-schools. The pyramid in the Plaza bears a bust of Gen. Belgrano. Under the last Justice of Peace great improvements were made; the lamp-posts in the Plaza were procured from England and are the same as used in London. The church is famous for an antique statue of the Blessed Virgin, and has been recently repaired by Governor Saavedra, at an outlay of \$100,000. The new bells have been cast in Buenos Ayres: the old ones were cracked in ringing for the overthrow of Gen. Oribe.

The curate will show the shrine of the Virgin, which is no less remarkable for its antiquity, than for the number of pilgrims who come hither from the upper Provinces and other countries of South America. It is above the high altar, and we ascend by a winding-stair which leads into an apartment of the turret, on one side commanding a fine view of the campagna, and on the other overlooking the interior of the church. The offerings of silver arms, legs, &c., exceed 50,000 in number, weighing altogether several arrobes: the gifts last year amounted to fifteen pounds of silver. Before the shrine is a silver lamp bearing the inscription "Agustin de Curia donavit, A. D. 1730."

The town takes its name from the river, and the latter from a Spanish officer, who was killed here in a battle with the indians, more than three hundred years ago. Lujan, however, is not so ancient. In the beginning of the eighteenth century a rich and devout lady of Sumampa, in Bolivia, ordered a statue of the Blessed Virgin from Spain, and it was being conveyed overland from Buenos Ayres, when the oxen got tired at the banks of the Lujan river and could not be made to proceed further. This was the first origin of the shrine. In 1744 it became a frontier fort, and we have a record that the population of all the camp districts was then no more than 6,064 souls. The frontier then ran southward by Navarro, Guardia Monte and Chascomus.

Lujan looks exceedingly pretty and picturesque from whatever side we approach it, the church and cabildo being conspicuous objects. The Plaza is very tasteful, the streets have more animation than is usual in camp towns, and there are several excellent shops, inns, coffee-houses, billiard rooms, &c. There are three flour mills and various brick-kilns in the

neighborhood, and the cemetery is situated on a high ground beyond the river, which is crossed by a good bridge. The streets much require paving, being almost impassable after rain. The State-schools are fine spacious buildings, attended by 103 boys and 84 girls. There are two resident doctors and an apothecary. The Irish clergyman, Rev. J. O'Reilly resides in the plaza: he has a library for the use of his parishioners. Numbers of respectable families from Buenos Ayres have country-houses here, and come to spend a month or two of the hot season. The annual fête of the town occurs on December 8, and is attended by the Governor and other distinguished guests, when the festivities begin with a High Mass, after which the natives run the 'sortija,' and a banquet is given by the Municipality, terminating with fire-works and a grand ball at the Cabildo.

The town has 156 rateable houses, of which the best belong to—Cruz Casas, Cheyes, Cintas Casal, Lezcano, Espinosa, Garralda, Jaurregui, Montiel, Maldonado, Ormachea, Pequeño, Ramirez, Salguero, Cruz Sein, and Ureta, all valued from \$100,000 upwards. The mill of Jammes and Roque is valued nearly \$500,000, and that of Jaurregui at \$150,000. The official returns of population are—Argentines 4,683, English 2,573, Spaniards 1,804, Italians 613, French 526, Germans 51, Indians 4, various 38—total 10,292. There are 390 houses and 979 ranchos; 6 alcaldes, 35 tenientes, 14 policemen, and 700 National Guards. Justice of Peace, Don Andres Lescano; Curate, Rev. Mr. Duteil; Postmaster, Don José Masil; *Standard* agent, Don Cruz Sein. Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$220,000.

Villa Luxan is 5½ leagues S. of Capilla del Señor, 6 E.N.E. of Mercedes, 10 N.N.E. of Navarro, 12 N.N.W. of Cañuelas, and 9 W. of Moron.

Mercedes.

Situate 20 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, is another great and flourishing Irish settlement, with an area of 52 square leagues, containing 104 estancias.

Agriculture is not making such progress as in more remote and less favored districts; there are only 96 chacras, covering a little over 15,000 acres, and most of these are gardens and peach plantations which surround the town for more than a mile on every side. The official returns of population are—6,633 Argentines, 726 Italians, 556 English, 575 French, 369 Spaniards, 20 Germans, 2 Indians, 56 others; total, 8,937. There are

456 houses, and 1,477 ranchos: 10 alcaldes, 44 tenientes, 14 policemen, and 1,533 National Guards.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Unzué,	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	M. Montolla,	$\frac{3}{8}$
Achaval, family,	4	F. Flores,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gerostiaga,	3	Sra. Rodriguez,	$\frac{1}{8}$
P. Frias,	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	M Tyrrell,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Pat. Fleming,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aceituna,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Carranza,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sra. Bogarin,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Bernal,	1	Barrancos, family,	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
S. Costa,	1	Inzua,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Michael Allen,	1	Thomas Ledwith,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Castilla,	1	James Maguire,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Durañona,	1	Silva, family,	$\frac{3}{8}$
R. Monez, family,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Galeano,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sra. Lobo,	$\frac{1}{2}$	John Smith,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nicholas Lowe,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas Carney,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Rodriguez's heirs,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Sra. Saubidet,	$\frac{3}{4}$
E. Rosalin,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Bazan,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Aranguren, family,	1	F. Correa,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Avila, family,	$\frac{3}{8}$	E. Cabral,	$\frac{3}{4}$
H. Diehl,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Balvidares,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Sra. Gomez,	$\frac{3}{8}$	N. Barrio,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Laurence Kelly,	$\frac{1}{2}$	E. Cardoso,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Thomas Maguire,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Escudero,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Vresbirueta,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Funes,	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. Luenge,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Thomas Maguire,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lescano, family,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	John Mahon,	$\frac{1}{2}$
P. Martinez,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	C. Garaghan,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lima, family,	1	Timothy Allen,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Michael Murray,	1	John Connor,	$\frac{1}{8}$
P. Suarez,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	John Dillon,	$\frac{1}{4}$
F. Villafañe,	1	John Flanagan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
A. Romero,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sra. Giles,	$\frac{1}{8}$
V. Pueblas,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irrazabal,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Sra. Obelar,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Patrick Keating,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Delpont,	1	Edward Martin,	$\frac{1}{4}$
L. Rodriguez,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Devoto brothers,	$\frac{1}{4}$
T. Freyre,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Patrick Murphy,	$\frac{1}{8}$

The partido is bounded on the N. by Giles, on the W. by the new partido of Suipacha, and the Rio de Saladas, which separates it from Chivilcoy, on the S. by Navarro, and on the E. by Luxan and Las Heras. The lands are watered by the River Luxan and its affluents, the Arroyos Leones, Cardoso, Durazno, Balta. Frias, &c. The large estancias of Unzué, Achaval and Frias lie N. of the town of Mercedes, a little beyond the Luxan river, which is crossed near Frias. by a bridge. The estancia formerly belonging to Hardoy and Woodgate has a beautiful house, in the style of an English cottage, and attached to this there was, till recently, a cabaña of fine sheep. The lands of Thomas Maguire, Flanagan, and Ledwith lie between Unzué's estancia and the Arroyo Leones: those of Carney, Keating and Allen are in the neighborhood of the Encadenadas lakes, near the partido of Chivilcoy. Fleming and Garaghan are at the Lagunas Turbia and Espadaña, in the direction of Navarro: Mr. Fleming, some years ago, was surprised here by the Indians, who partly cut his throat, but not so much as to prevent his ultimate recovery. Messrs. Lowe brothers have a nice place close to the Arroyo Balta, about two leagues E. of Mercedes. Michael Murray, James Maguire, Lawrence Kelly, and Mrs. Kenny are situate S. of Freyre station, between Cardoso's estancia and the Arroyo Saladas. John Connor adjoins the Pueblas estancia, a couple of leagues S. of Mercedes. John Dillon's and Edward Martin's lands are near the point where the Arroyos Leones, Durazno, and Cardoso meet, to form the head-waters of the River Luxan. Patrick Murphy and Don Antonio Romero are southward, between John Smyth's estancia of Saladas and the boundaries of Navarro. The estancias of Suarez and Ruiz Mones are S.W. of Los Leones arroyo, and Carranza's and Durañona's are near the Leones lagoon. There is a portion of the Gorostiaga estancia in this partido, but the greater part is in Chivilcoy, the owner is the present Minister of Finance, and he has 60,000 sheep on the land: the principal estancia house is a couple of leagues from Freyre station. The railway from Mercedes to Chivilcoy crosses the lands of Gomez, Sanchez, Mejia, Aranguren, Dillon, Martin, Murray, Suarez, Freyre, Gonsalez, Barrancos, and Gorostiaga.

There are twenty Irish estancieros, whose landed properties cover in the aggregate about 70,000 acres English, and these are stocked with a quarter of a million sheep. But this will only give an imperfect idea of the number and importance of the Irish community of Mercedes. Most of the native estancias are either rented out to our countrymen, or the proprietors have Irishmen as medianeros or puesteros to care their sheep. It may be estimated that there are a million sheep in this partido, either

belonging to or cared by Irishmen, whose numbers, including their families, exceed 2,000. It is a legitimate source of pride to all foreigners, and especially to English and Irish residents, to be able to point to so many prosperous countrymen in the camp, who landed on these shores a few years ago with no other capital than a strong arm and an honest and laborious purpose, and who have turned the desert camps into valuable sheep-farms, and gained for themselves the fortunes so nobly earned. The Irishmen of Mercedes vie with the most generous of their countrymen either here or in the old country, in supporting their clergy and institutions. Their parish priest is the Rev. J. Lynch, who has a library for their use at Mercedes: many of these have their daughters at school in the Irish Mercy convent at Buenos Ayres, and each farmer has also a tutor in his house to educate the boys; this is no less true of the other partidos, wherever Irishmen are found. The stock returns are—22,809 cows, 13,570 horses, 247 fine sheep, 1,326,209 mestiza sheep, 420 creole sheep, and 969 pigs, being an average of 400 cows, 260 horses, and 26,000 sheep per square league. The land is mostly assessed at \$500,000, but some is so low as \$320,000 per square league, and other parts go up to double the last figure. Total valuation of town and district 57,000,000, against 28,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$228,000.

The city of Mercedes, as it is officially styled, is one of the best towns in the camp, with a population of 3,000 souls. It has many handsome public buildings, a neat plaza, 33 very good shops, two inns, several hack-coaches, three doctors, an apothecary, two lawyers, public and private schools, and 332 rateable houses: of these last the best belong to—Villafañe, Aranguren, Saubidet, Silva, Pueblas, Napoleón, Mones, Martinez, Carroque, Lobo, Lescano, Giraldo, Guilloto, Espil, N. Fresco, Cardoso, Carmona, Cabral, and Benitez, all valued over \$100,000. The traveller will find every information from Messrs. Torroba Bros., who have a large wholesale and retail store at a corner of the plaza; the owners are old Spaniards, but speak English fluently, and do a great business in groceries, hardware, dry-goods, &c., principally with the Irish sheep-farmers: the house was established in 1857, and has a branch at Chilvilcoy. The new cabildo is a handsome structure, in the plaza, and has a ball-room 100 feet long, in which the annual ball and festivities are held on September 24th, the day of Nuestra Señora de Mercedes. The church is commodious and well kept, and on Sunday mornings it is crowded with Irishmen, for whom Father Lynch celebrates Mass and sometimes gives a sermon. The state-school was built in 1866, at a cost of \$460,000: it has a fine front supported by six Doric columns, and surmounted by a balustrade, with a

dozen vases of terra-cotta: the boys' school is on the right, and the girls' on the left, each accommodating 200 pupils; the wings are respectively occupied by the master and mistress, and have nice suites of rooms. Sr. Maldonado has conducted the boys' school for ten years with the utmost satisfaction. It will agreeably surprise the stranger to find the state-schools of this and other camp towns so comfortable and neatly furnished, and the appearance of the children so orderly and respectable. The Provincial branch-bank is under the charge of Don Pedro Arana. The railway station is of very large dimensions and tastefully finished; it is under the direction of Señor Villarino, who has been employed on the line since its commencement: an excellent lunch-saloon is attached to the station. The theatre of the town is small and uncomfortable; a Spanish company plays here once or twice a year. Larroque's mill is well worth a visit; it is two miles N. of the town, close to the bridge over the Luxan river, and was built in 1856, at an expense of £8,000 sterling. It works by steam as well as water, and can grind 100 fanegas in 24 hours: the water-wheel is 30-horse, the steam-engine 15-horse power, the latter consuming $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal daily. The mill is three stories high, and a fine view of the surrounding country is obtained from the roof. Some of the quintas near the town are laid out with much taste: the best are those of—Durañona, Delepiane, Romero, Lertua, Salvo, Solveyra, Cané, Punte, Parody, Urario, Millan, Mansilla, Lecot, Lescano, Iturrios, Gariboti, Campora, Bosquiaso, and Arze. Mercedes was called Guardia de Luxan at the beginning of the present century, when it was held as a frontier outpost. A great battle was fought about two miles westward some forty years ago, in which the Indians cut to pieces all the garrison, and a large wooden cross marks the spot of the disaster. Not far hence the telegraph wires start off northward to Rosario. The cemetery of Mercedes is badly kept; it is beyond the line of railway. Several Buenos Ayrean families have country-houses near the town, and come here for the summer months; it is three and a-half hours' journey from Buenos Ayres, and there are two trains each way daily. The Western or Central Criminal Tribunal resides at Mercedes, and there is a prison under the Cabildo: the Criminal Judge is Dr.; Justice of Peace, Don Pedro Saubidet; Irish Curate, Rev. J. Lynch; Post-master, Don Exequiel Landivar; *Standard* agency, Messrs. Torroba Bros.; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$620,000.

Mercedes is $4\frac{1}{2}$ leagues S. of Giles, 9 S.E. of Carmen de Areco, 11 E.N.E. of Chivilcoy, 11 N. of the Rio Salado, 8 N.N.W. of Navarro, and 6 W.S.W. of Luxan.

Suipacha.

Situate about 26 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, is a new partido, not yet properly organized, having neither Municipality, Justice of Peace, nor other public official. There is no town of any kind, but the probable site may be supposed to be on the estancia of Don Manuel Carranza, S.W. of the Laguna de Leones, and six leagues due W. of the town Mercedes. The partido will be bounded on the N. by Carmen de Areco, on the W. by Chacabuco and Chivilcoy, on the S. by the Western Railway and Mercedes, and the E. by Mercedes; with an area not exceeding 25 or 30 square leagues. The lands are fertile and well-watered, but entirely devoted to sheep-farming. The Arroyo de Leones is the principal water-course of the district: there is also a lagoon called Las Nutrias. The estancias to be comprised in this new partido will probably be the following—Carney, Rodriguez, Martinez, Carranza, Diehl, Barrio, Correa, Bogarin, Barrancos, Freyre, Balvidares, Mones Ruiz, Suarez, Villafañe, Durañona, Inzua, Silva, Costa, &c., which have already been described under the heading of Mercedes. We have no returns of population, stock, &c., all which are included in those of Mercedes. The partido derives its name from a victory over the Spaniards in the war of Independence.

Chivilcoy.

Situate 31 leagues W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 90 square leagues. and may be regarded as the cradle of agricultural industry in these countries. More than half the total extent is under crops, there being no fewer than 1602 grain farms, with 300,000 acres under tillage, thus shewing an average of 40 cuadradas to each chacra. The project of an agricultural settlement had long been agitated by Don Domingo Sarmiento (now President of the Republic), and the colony was founded on Christmas eve 1854, one of the first settlers being Mr. Krause, a German: at that time it was a bare desert, the same as Indian territory, and the first settlers had not even a tree to shelter them, but lived in bullock-carts till they were able to dig wells and put up a few mud ranchos. Before a year elapsed the progress of the place was marvellous, and to-day when looking around the numberless grain-farms, handsome quintas and flourishing town

of Chivilcoy it is difficult to realize that all this is only the work of fifteen years. It is a splendid proof of the capabilities of the country, and an encouragement to Argentines for them to behold a glorious future in agricultural pursuits. Krause, Bunge, and Soarez were among the first cultivators, and the number at present is too great to give the names of all. Among the principal are—

Krause,
 Klappenbach,
 Guerrea,
 Guñi,
 Lucio,
 Robbio,
 Ricero,
 Cassi,
 Elortondo,
 Sabillaga,
 Torrijos,
 Soarez,
 Sacutegui,
 Recarde,
 Rodriguez,
 Roldan,
 Perez,
 Gatero,

Ojeda,
 Pagola,
 Oyamburu,
 Nichen,
 Velarde,
 Uriarte,
 Uzueta,
 Machinto,
 Galbencio,
 Guillieri,
 Goyeneche,
 Gaitan,
 Gardey,
 Galarce,
 Echave,
 Espotorno,
 Esteco,
 Acosta.

In 1862 the valuation of the partido was under 12,000,000; in 1865 it had risen to 43,000,000, and at present it cannot be short of \$100,000,000 m^{ts}. It is the boast of President Sarmiento that, before his period of office expires (1874), he will have «A hundred Chivilcoys throughout the Argentine Republic.» For a long time Chivilcoy suffered a great check from the difficulty and expense of sending its produce to Buenos Ayres by bullock-carts; in 1864 the crop of Indian corn was so abundant that the farmers burnt it for fuel, the cost of transport being more than the value of the grain. Since the opening of the railway, 1866, the impetus given to farming has been unparalleled, and the wheat crops are now so large that it must soon form an article of exportation, whereas only ten years ago we depended entirely on flour from the United States.

Most of the «chacreross» of Chivilcoy are foreigners, but there are also many natives, and the moral tone of the country will be immeasurably improved if the «paisanos» can be induced to adopt habits of industry instead of the vagrant and savage life of a Gaucho.

There are some large estancias in the partido, the principal being :—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
White & Co.,	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	Montenegro, family,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Terreros,	10	Barroso,	1
Gorostiaga,	3	Pereyra, family,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cranwell, family,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mansilla,	1
Barrios, family,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Lobos, family,	2
Biaus,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sra. Amespil,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ronayne,	1	Valladores Bros.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ramos,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Barrancos, family,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lopez,	4	Cruz,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ovejero,	2	Diaz, family,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sousa, family,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	M. Ronayne,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
V. Torres,	2	F. Morris,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

The partido is bounded on the N. by Carmen de Areco and Chacabuco, on the W. and S. by the Rio Salado, which separates it from Bragado and 25 de Mayo, and on the E. by Navarro and Mercedes. The largest estancia is that of Don Juan N. Terrero, near Las Toscas, on the banks of the Salado: the Cañada de Peludos is the boundary between this estancia and Mr. Dowling's, which latter is in the partido of Chacabuco. The Cranwell estancia is S. of Terrero's, extending from the chacras of Chivilcoy down to the Salado: it is divided into nine portions, for Mrs. Cranwell and her eight children. The great establishment of Mr. James White and Señor Villarino is one of the finest in the west, and well worthy of a visit: it extends in a line of four leagues from the town of Chivilcoy to the edge of the Salado, and is devoted partly to agriculture and partly to grazing. This was one of the first model farms in the country, when tillage was first experimented here, and Mr. White's enterprise and improvements contributed in no small degree to stimulate and promote agricultural industry in Chivilcoy. The country on all sides of Mr. White's place, for miles around, is a succession of rich grain-farms; and a couple of leagues further east is the estancia San Roman, the property of Don Manuel Lopez, and crossing the Cañada Rica we come to the estancia of Mr. Michael Ronayne. The lands of Biaus, Montenegro, and Ramos are washed by the Rio Salado; those of Pereyra Souza, Barrios, Rojas and Barrancos are close to the Arroyo Saladas, which separates them from Navarro and Mercedes. The greater part of the Gorostiaga estancia is in the partido of Chivilcoy, besides three square leagues in Mercedes, adjoining: it comprises four establishments, San José, San Bernardo, San Patricio, and Santa Trinidad, each of which has a lagoon of the same name

and estancia house and plantation, and a large stock of sheep and cattle: there is a railway station on the land, called after the proprietor, and situate about midway from Freyre to Chivilcoy. The lands about Chivilcoy are very low, and watered by the Arroyos San Antonio, Hinojo, and Cañada de Chivilcoy, which fall into the Rio Salado. The Lobo estancia is a couple of leagues S.W. of Chivilcoy, and those of Torres and Ovejero are further westward. The prolonged line of railway to Bragado will traverse the chacras intervening between the estates of White and Cranwell, and across the Rio Salado in front of the large estancia of Don Mariano Biais, in the partido of Bragado: this extension will be 25 miles long.

The returns of stock for Chivilcoy are—111,852 cows, 38,462 horses, 825 fine sheep, 875,624 mestiza sheep, 5,200 creole, and 4,300 pigs; being an average of 2,500 cows, 800 horses, and 20,000 sheep per square league. The land is variously valued from \$200,000 to \$500,000 per league. The Irish population is comparatively small, not exceeding 200 in number: they are visited by Father Lynch from Mercedes. The official returns of population are—10,690 Argentines, 347 Italians, 252 Spaniards, 220 French, 84 English, 21 Germans, 5 Indians, 43 various: total, 11,664. There are 298 houses, and 2,784 ranchos, including 266 pulperias: 16 alcaldes, 52 tenientes, 15 policemen, and 2,116 National Guards.

Chivilcoy promises to be the finest town in the camp. The streets are wide, the houses well-built; the plaza covers eight acres, and the aspect of the place is busy and prosperous. The basis of its vitality consists in the chacras, which form a zone of rich fertility on all sides, and the shops are well supplied with merchandise of every description. There is a first-rate club, with reading-room 50 feet long, billiard-tables, coffee-room, &c., the exterior being decorated with marble pillars. A public library has been recently started by Mr. Krause, to which President Sarmiento and General Mitre handsomely contributed. There is also a small theatre; and a printing-office is about to be established. The state-school is exceedingly handsome; over the front is a handsome statue of Our Lord bidding little ones to come unto him; this is the work of M. Duteil: the arrangements of the school are elegant and commodious, the attendance numbering 101 boys and 50 girls. A couple of years ago a new church was commenced, on a scale of unnecessary magnitude; the works have been of course abandoned, after a foolish outlay of money, and a very strange spectacle is now presented by the posts formerly used for scaffolding, which have taken root and blossomed luxuriantly. The best shops are in the plaza, and that of Torroba Brothers is a rendezvous for English neighbors. The town has a doctor, apothecary, photographer, auctioneer, and 85 shops,

The cacique Cóliqueo and some of his friendly Indians sometimes visit the town to buy necessities. There are 237 rateable houses, of which the best are those belonging to—

Villegas,
Valentino,
Morel,
Ortega,
Oneto,
Payró,
Peyras,
Pechien,
Peyeano,
Rey Dréscó & Co.,
Sanchez,
Soarez,
Torrijos,
Rodriguez,
Medina,
Muniagurri,
Lacó,
Lima,
Lopez,
Grosso,

Giraldo,
Gamen,
Gomez,
Krause,
Lobos,
Duarte,
Denegri,
Echaide,
Ferreira,
Forguez,
Grego,
Chaves,
Durañona,
Castagnino,
Cuesta,
Cabant,
Calderon,
Costa,
Benitez,
Ayarza.

There is a large proportion of two-story houses, giving the town quite a European look. Castagnino's quinta is exceedingly pretty, and those of Krause and Bunge are famous for delicious peaches. The railway station is at some distance from the town, but there are always hack-coaches in waiting for the trains. The journey to Buenos Ayres takes 5½ hours, and there are two trains daily, each way. Justice of Peace, Don Federico E. Gonzalez; Curate, Rev. Severo Soria; Post-master, Don José Escala; *Standard* agency, Messrs. Torroba Bros.; Municipality, seven members.

Chivilcoy is 4 leagues N.N.E. of the Rio Salado, 10 S.E. of Chacabuco, 11 S.S.W. of Carmen de Areco, 13 S.W. of Giles, and 11 W.S.W. of Mercedes.

CHAP. VII.

SOUTH-WESTERN PARTIDOS.

CAÑUELAS TO TAPALQUEN.

Cañuelas.

SITUATE 11 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 41 square leagues, and comprises 162 estancias. It is bounded on the N. by the Matanzas river, which separates it from the partido of the same name, on the W. by Lobos and Navarro, on the S. by Guardia del Monte, and on the E. San Vicente. It is watered by the Arroyo Cañuelas, Cañada de los Pozos, and other tributaries of Matanzas river, but has no lagoons of any size. The partido has long been famous for its Cabañas of prize rams and ewes for improving the breed of sheep, and some of its establishments are remarkably fine. The camps are well-suited for sheepfarming, as they retain water to a late period in summer, and in making wells water is found at a very short depth. Agriculture is also attended to, there being no fewer than 308 chacras, covering about 15,000 acres of tillage. This partido was one of the first settled by Englishmen, and our countrymen number over 200. The land is valued at \$400,000 per league. Total valuation 25,000,000, against 15,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$100,000.

The principal estancias are :—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
M'Clymont,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	F. Perez,	$\frac{1}{8}$
W. Whyte,	3	Nuñez,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Alfaro,	2	Peter Ball,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Lahitte,	1	Casales,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Halbach,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Garcia, family,	1
E. Villegas,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Morales,	$\frac{1}{8}$
R. Millan,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Bargas,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sra. Lenona,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Castro, family,	2
Martinez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$	A. Pereyra,	1
Alcoba,	$\frac{1}{8}$	C. Villegas,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Cebey,	$\frac{1}{4}$	F. Tavares,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Tobar,	1	Lalama,	$\frac{3}{4}$
E. Loysa,	$\frac{1}{8}$	L. Loysa,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Ramos,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Thompson, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Martinez de Hoz,	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	Avila, family,	$\frac{3}{8}$
R. Carranza,	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	Alegre, do.	$\frac{3}{8}$
Acosta, family,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Carrizo, do.	$\frac{3}{8}$
L. Agüero,	1 $\frac{1}{8}$	W. Dickson,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Barreda,	1	Mrs. Hanlon,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Cardenas,	1	D. Pereyra,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Rosa,	$\frac{1}{2}$	H. Harilaos,	$\frac{1}{4}$

The estancias of Whyte and McClymont are among the finest in the country: the first is called La Campana, situate between the Arroyo de Cañuelas and the Matanzas river, and is famed for its superior breeds of sheep, horses, and cows, mostly imported from England. This estancia is got up in thorough English style, at great expense, and was one of the first in Buenos Ayres to be completely fenced in. The M'Clymont estate runs S.E. from the town of Cañuelas, about two leagues, and is similar in character to the last: these model establishments were founded by two enterprising Scotchmen, who may be regarded as having been the pioneers of industry in this part of the country: the mansion houses, farm-sheds, &c., are of the most comfortable kind, and surrounded by orchards, wheat-fields, and extensive meadow lands. Halbach's estancia of Los Remedios, between Monte Grande and the Matanzas river, was another costly and valuable property, but it changed hands a couple of years ago; the buildings and plantations were sold for a tithe of their value. No less unfortunate was a joint-stock co. called Sociedad Pastoral, chiefly devoted to the rearing and importing of fine sheep and cattle: the lands were

situate at El Ombú, about midway between Cañuelas and San Vicente, adjoining Alfaro's estancia, and comprising over two square leagues. The enterprise was broken up, and Señor Martinez de Hoz now dedicates himself to the same business, importing superior animals from England and Germany. The lands of Barreda, Labitte and Villegas lie S. of the town, and those of Pereyra, Millan and Castro are on the borders of Matanzas. The stock of the partido counts—12,902 cows, 13,003 horses, 16,380 fine sheep, 818,158 mestiza sheep, 1,000 creole sheep, and 122 pigs; being an average of 350 cows, 350 horses, and 21,000 sheep per square league. The population returns are—4,191 Argentines, 131 Italians, 247 Spaniards, 88 French, 79 English, 19 Germans, 174 various; total, 4,933. There are 252 houses and 708 ranchos, 5 alcaldes, 20 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 650 National Guards.

The village of Cañuelas has about 2,000 inhabitants, mostly settlers from Old Spain or the Pyrenees. It is prettily situated, and has a fine new church, besides state-schools attended by 54 boys and 48 girls. There are a resident doctor and 2 apothecaries; 4 drapers' and 15 grocers' shops; 6 carpenters' shops, employing 20 men; 2 forges, employing 4 men; 3 brick-kilns, making about 2,000,000 bricks each season; 4 shoemakers, employing 30 men and women; one silversmith and assistant; 5 barracas for storing produce, which keep 30 bullock-carts constantly employed; 24 brick-layers, and 40 hodmen, who have constant work; 1 confectioner, 1 hotel, 4 inns, 1 tailor and assistant, 1 candle-manufacturer, 3 billiard-tables, 6 butchers. There are 70 rateable houses, of which the best are those of—Castro, Gonzalez, Arrieta, Fuentes, John Griffin, Villegas, Zelarayan, Rodriguez, Muñiz, Bletcher, Garcia, and Galicia, valued from \$70,000 upwards. Justice of Peace, Don Desiderio Davel; Curate, Rev. Alfonso Raffaeli; Postmaster, Don Ventura Cano; *Standard* agents, Messrs. Davel & Co.; municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$160,000. The Irish of this district are visited by the Rev. Mr. Curran, from Lobos, once a month, and the Scotch pastor, Rev. Mr. Smyth, attends once a month at Mr. McClymont's estancia. The registry books shew that of every 100 children baptized, 55 are legitimate and 45 are illegitimate: this is about the average in many of the rural districts. Cañuelas is distant five leagues from San Vicente, eight from Merlo, ten from Rio Salado, and eight from Guardia Monte.

Navarro.

Situate 17 leagues W.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, and 9 leagues W. of Cañuelas, has an area of 68 square leagues: it is bounded on the N. by

Villa Luxan, on the W. by Chivilcoy, on the S. by the Rio Salado and Lobos, and on the E. by Las Heras and Cañuelas.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
J. Smith & Unzué,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Muñoz, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Mrs. Norris,	2	Ramirez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Gahan bros.,	2	Solé, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Diaz, family,	3	Ibarra,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Costa,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Trejo,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Almera, family,	5	Duran,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Casales,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Piñero,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Santana, family,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	Santillan,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Kiesse,	2	Sejas,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Peñalva,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calderon,	1
Miranda, family, ...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mrs. Kenny,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Alvarado,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	John Maguire,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cerda, family,	1	Patrick Maguire,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Correa,	1	L. Casey,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Juarez,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Silva,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lubo,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Caraballo,	$\frac{1}{2}$
J. Litardo,	1	Dominguez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Romero,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Poggio,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Ponce Leon,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Ocantos,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Echegaray,	1	Vega,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Ferreyra,	1	Adorno,	1
Villa,	1	Melo,	1
Zamudio,	1	C. Morales,	1
Luna,	1	Moll.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Papsdorf,	1	Burinigo,	2
Benitez,	1	Aramburu,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Maxwell,	$\frac{3}{4}$		

The partido is watered by the Arroyo Saladas which falls into the Rio Salado, and by the Cañadas of Navarro, Garzas, Tomasa, and San Lorenzo, which feed the great lake of Navarro. The camps are well suited for sheep, and so low that they retain water even in the driest seasons; some parts are much infested with «abrojo» burr, but most of the partido is free from this nuisance. The foreign estancieros are very wealthy, owning about one-fourth of the whole district, and the total Irish population may be set down at 1,000. The Rio Salado washes the southern camps of the partido, and the passage of this river is very dangerous, especially in

winter, when it overflows its banks for leagues around : strangers must not attempt to cross it without a «vaqueano» or guide. The lake of Navarro is also dangerous to ford : close to this lake is the estancia of Mrs. Norris, whose house is fitted up with every comfort. Hard by is another valuable property, that of Mr. Gahan of Merlo and his brother, who resides in Ireland. Mrs. Kenny and John Maguire have their estancias in this neighbourhood, and they are intersected by the Cañada de Navarro, while Patrick Maguire is between this stream and the Arroyo La Chozá. The lands of John Smith and Unzué are half way between Navarro and the Rio Salado, and the large estancia of Don Andres Costa is situate on this river. The Almeyra and Diaz properties are a couple of leagues W. of Navarro : those of Moll, Lubo, and Cerda are in the Cañada Rica, beyond Arroyo Saladas. Correa, Morales, Calderon, and Melo, are N.W. of Navarro, and the estancias of Santana, Sejas, and Miranda are E. of the town ; that of Papsdorf adjoins the Norris estate, westward. The land is valued at \$320,000 per square league ; total valuation 19,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1862. Contribution tax, \$76,000. Stock returns—26,639 cows, 19,662 horses, 8,000 fine sheep, 1,035,030 mestiza sheep, 61,610 creole sheep, 1,506 swine ; being an average of 400 cows, 250 horses, 19,000 sheep to the square league. Population returns—8,221 Argentines, 1,053 French, 313 English, 587 Italians, 882 Spaniards, 98 Germans, 41 others ; total 11,195. There are 161 houses and 1,057 ranchos, including 44 pulperias : 5 alcaldes, 20 tenientes, and 14 police. Agriculture has made great progress, and we find some large grain farms : there are 122 chacras, with an aggregate of 6,000 acres under tillage.

The village of Navarro is situate on the lake of the same name, and was first established, as a frontier outpost, in 1744. Although over a century old it hardly counts yet a thousand inhabitants, and the streets have an unfinished appearance. There are 69 rateable houses, the best being those of Aguilar, Bastarrica, Bildostegui, Bosso, Costa, Sotero, Serantes, Correa, Carrizo, Cagen, Espil, Fredes, Garcia, Gorosito, Ibarra, Leonetti, Litardo, Luna, Lavega, Marinovich, Montovio, Olaso, Rios, Solar, Trejo, Varas, Vinales, and Samuel Wheeler, valued from \$50,000 upwards. The branch railway from Merlo to Lobos will give increased importance to the partido of Navarro : the estancieros of this district have offered the necessary land gratis in case the line may be made to touch at Navarro, but this would be out of the straight route. Two-thirds of the population of the town are Basques or Italians. The church is small but neat, and the Curate is Rev. Sebastian Perez. The Irish congregation is visited by Rev. Mr. Curran of Lobos. There are coaches daily to Luxan (ten leagues), and the journey

to Buenos Ayres is made in seven hours. Navarro boasts an inn, a club which is maintained by the leading neighbors, and state-schools attended by 56 boys and 50 girls. There are numerous well-stocked shops to supply the wants of the estancieros, and the business of the place is improving.

The Irish Racing Club of Navarro holds meets at stated periods, the principal members being the Gahans, Caseys, and other estancieros: the last cup, value \$4,000 was won by Mr. Gahan's «sebruno.»

Navarro is distant 8 leagues from Mercedes, 11 from Chivilcoy, 5 from Lobos, and 7 from the Rio Salado. Justice of Peace. Don Felipe Diz; Post-master, Don Daniel Ravelo; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$150,000.

Lobos.

Situate 18 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 62 square leagues, comprising 97 estancias.

The partido is bounded on the N. by Las Heras, on the W. by Navarro, on the S. by the Rio Salado and Guardia Monte, and on the E. by Cañuelas. It is watered by the Arroyos Garzas, Tajamar, Toro, and Uncal, which fall into the lake of Lobos, two leagues S. of the town. It is one of the most flourishing and important districts in the south, and chiefly settled by Irishmen, who own about one-tenth of the land. The camps are in general good, except in some places which are low and marshy, and others much infested with «abrojo.» Many Irish estancieros of the north made their beginning in this partido, and it has always been a favorite district for sheep. The arroyos are mostly of permanent water, and besides the lake of Lobos, there is a larger one, called Cubú-cubú and covering nearly a square league, close to the Urquiola estancia. This estancia is mostly in the neighboring partido of Monte, and covers 9 square leagues, about midway between the towns of Lobos and Guardia Monte. The Cascallares territory occupies nearly all the lands from Lobos to the Rio Salado, and the estancias of Casavalle and the late Vice-President Paz are situate on the Arroyo Tajamar. The Arevalo estancia has three lagoons, called La Rabona, Colis and Rios; and the lands of Casey and Atucha, Geoghegan, and Varela are intersected by the Arroyo de Garzas. A league north of the town was formerly a property of four leagues, belonging to Wright Bros., but this has now been marked out for chacras; and in its vicinity we meet the estancias of John Lawler, the Murphys, Livingstone, and Zelis. Salada Chica, the property of Don Mariano Acosta, and the lands of Viñales and Casavalle, are on the Rio Salado. Terence Moore, Rivas, Cepeda, and

Burgos are near the Cañada del Toro, and the Villegas estancia is on the borders of Cañuelas. The partido is greatly over-stocked, the returns shewing 28,286 cows, 27,322 horses, 18,895 fine sheep, 1,957,258 mestiza sheep, 10,709 creole sheep; being an average of 500 cows, 500 horses, and 36,000 sheep per square league. The land is valued at \$200,000 to \$400,000 per league. Total valuation 32,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$128,000. Population—Argentines 12,812, Spaniards 1,242, English 916, Italians 926, French 320, Germans 62, various 131: total 16,409. There are 352 houses and 4,064 ranchos, including 100 pulperias: 5 alcaldes, 30 tenientes, 14 police, and 1,600 National Guards.

Agriculture is making great progress: there are no fewer than 1,241 chacras, covering altogether nearly 40 acres of tillage. The approaches to Lobos are the prettiest of any town in the province, being a succession of farms, quintas, and plantations, a league in every direction, all highly cultivated. The town is large, well-built, and thriving, with a population of 5,000 souls; it does a good trade in hides and wool, and there are some flour mills in the neighborhood. There is a fine church in the plaza, attended by Rev. José Amoretti and the Rev. Mr. Curran; the latter is the Irish pastor, and has a congregation of 2,500 in this partido, besides the Irish settlers of Guardia Monte and Las Flores, who are also under his charge. There are fifty good shops, some good inns, coffee-houses, billiard-rooms, a resident doctor and an apothecary, and 206 rateable houses: of these latter the best are those of Cascallares, Noguera, Caminos, Barrera, Bastarretche, Arevalo, Varela, Villafañe, Piñero, Portuso, Casavalle, Melendez, Zavala, Olaso, Zamudio, Velarde, Salinas, Solano, Rodriguez, and Suarez, all valued over \$100,000; there are also three English house-holders, Cornfoot, Wright, and Morgan; and two shops much frequented by English residents, viz., Terence Moore's, and Nandin Sons, the latter being the *Standard* agency. The works have been commenced of the branch railway from Merlo (12 leagues), which will place Lobos within four hours' journey of Buenos Ayres: the cost of the line is estimated at £180,000 sterling, or £5,000 per mile. Lobos is distant six leagues from Cañuelas, seven from Guardia Monte, and five from Rio Salado. It may be considered one of the prettiest and most thriving towns in the province. It was founded in 1803 by an estanciero named José Salgado, who built a chapel to our Lady of Carmel on his land, for the accommodation of his neighbours, 141 in number, and in the following year Bishop Lue made it a parish, under the care of Rev. Garcia Miranda. There was an old fort called Lobos, 14 leagues further south. The present

title of the town is San Salvador de Lobos. Justice of Peace, Don José Maria Villafañe; Post-master, Don Juan M. Carranza; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$300,000.

The following are the principal estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Cascallares, family,	9½	Acevedo family,	½
Arevalo, do. . . .	3¼	Rodriguez, family,	½
Gutierrez, do. . . .	2¾	James Murphy,	½
Casavalle, do. . . .	2	Ter. Moore,	½
Ruiz, do. . . .	2	John Lawler,	½
Burgos, do. . . .	3¼	Villasante,	¼
Vinales,	2½	Harilaos,	⅓
M. Acosta,	2	Ramirez,	⅓
Casey & Co.,	1½	Dias, do. . . .	¼
D. Livingstone,	1½	Baca, family. . . .	⅓
Villalva,	1½	Cepeda, family,	1
Frias,	1¼	Almaraz,	⅔
Villegas,	1½	Ponce,	⅔
Villoldo,	1¾	Leiva,	⅔
Urquiola,	1	Fredes,	½
Fuentes,	½	Guerrero,	⅓
Maldonado,	½	Marcos Paz,	1
Gallo,	⅓	Riso,	½
Mrs. Cornfoot,	⅓	Rosales,	⅔
Meoquin,	¼	Fernandez,	½
Piñero,	1	Guerra,	⅓
M. Murphy,	1	J. Acosta,	½
Colaso, family,	1	Varela, family,	⅔
Rivas,	1	Patrick O'Neill,	¼
M. Geoghegan,	1	Hernandez,	⅓
Unzué,	1	Ordoñez,	⅔
Zelis,	¾	Torres,	⅓
Rojas, family,	¾	Gallegos,	¼
Arenillas,	¾	Solano,	⅓
Cieza,	½	Atencio,	½

Guardia Monte.

Situate 19 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 74 square leagues, and comprises 97 estancias, of which the principal are:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Juan Terrero,	15	Nieves	$\frac{1}{2}$
Frederick Terrero,	3	Basualdo,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Videla Dorna,	$11\frac{1}{2}$	Bernard Killimed,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Urquiola,	8	M. Hogan,	$\frac{1}{2}$
David Dillon,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Galindez,	$\frac{1}{2}$
La Rosa,	2	Huertas,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Russell,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	James Craig,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Farias,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Cobos,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rojas, family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Tim. Killimed,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ferreyra, do.	1	Fredes,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lopez, do.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Garcia,	$\frac{1}{2}$
W. M'Clymont,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Edward Moran,	$\frac{1}{2}$
W. P. Boyd,	1	M'Loughlin,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Fras. Brady,	1	Muldowney,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rosas,	1	Egaña,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Ruiz, family,	1	Galvan,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gonsalez, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Marzano,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Montes,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Mr. Kenny,	$\frac{1}{2}$
David Lyall,	$\frac{3}{8}$	Calderon,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Espinosa, family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Aguirre,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gomez,	1	Zelarayan,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Amarillo, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Cordoba,	$\frac{1}{2}$
John Malcolm,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Mosquera,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Campos,	$\frac{1}{2}$	P. J. Guillen,	$\frac{1}{2}$
John White,	$\frac{1}{2}$	P. Martin,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Villalba,	$\frac{1}{2}$		

The partido is bounded on the N. by Cañuelas and Lobos, on the W. and S. by the Rio Salado, and on the E. by Ranchos. It derives its name from the number of «montes» or plantations seen on all sides, and is also well watered by the Rio Salado and numerous large lagoons. The camps yield excellent pasture for sheep, but in some places the poisonous «romerilla» is found, which, however, the sheep of these estancias will not eat. Water is found at a short depth, and the lagoons of Encadenadas, Monte, Perdices, Juncal, Maypu, and Tabla, never run dry even in the hottest seasons. More than half the partido is in the hands of three families; the Terreros, Urquiolas, and Videla Dorna's, and the foreign estancieros own about one-sixth. The lands of Videla Dorna stretch eastward from the town of Guardia Monte, as far as John Hannah's estancia, near Ranchos: they also extend southward to the Desplayada lagoon on the Rio Salado. The

Terrero estate occupies the whole country S. E. of the Encadenadas lakes, as far as the Salado. Urquiola's estancia is N.W. of Guardia Monte, on the borders of Lobos; David Dillon and P. Martin are in the midst of the lakes; Russell and M'Clymont are on the Arroyo Totoral, north of the town, and the smaller estancias of Killimed and Craig are in the same direction. Mr. Boyd's place of Alto Redondo is two leagues N.E. of the town, just before reaching the estancias of Farias and La Rosa. The lands of Lopez, Gomez, and Ferreyra lie S.W. of the town reaching to the Salado; those of Hogan, Nieves, and Rodriguez are to the N.W.; and those of White and Galvan on the borders of Cañuelas. The number of our countrymen in this partido exceeds 1,000, and those of them who belong to the Irish congregation are visited by Rev. James Curran from Lobos. The stock returns are—30,864 cows, 24,705 horses, 12,042 fine sheep, 1,050,221 mestiza sheep, and 8,200 creole sheep; being an average of 400 cows, 300 horses, and 15,000 sheep per square league. The land is valued at \$500,000 per league. Total valuation 30,000,000, against 17,000,000 in 1862. Contribution tax, \$120,000. Population returns—3,427 Argentines, 366 English, 216 French, 130 Italians, 198 Spaniards, 17 Germans, 77 various, and 1 Indian; total, 4,432. There are 73 houses and 1,124 ranchos, including 36 pulperias; 6 Alcaldes, 24 tenientes, 14 police, and 512 National Guards. It was in this partido that Rosas passed his early years, breaking-in wild horses on the estancia now belonging to Mr. Reid. The Gauchos of this district have always been reputed lawless, but there has been no outrage within the past year.

Agriculture is increasing, and there are about 20,000 acres under tillage: the principal chacras are—

Name.		Cuadras.	Name.		Cuadras.
Mr. Kenny, . . . .	....	240	J. Giraldez,	....	30
Michael Furlong,	....	30	Peter Craig,	....	90
William Lookup,	....	30	M. Minondo,	....	60

There is a good deal of wheat, maize, clover, and vegetables raised, principally in the vicinity of the town. There are 162 chacras in the district, eighty of these have already been sold, sixty-seven are rented, and the remaining fifteen are yet vacant. These chacras are sold by the Municipality at the rate of \$200 per cuadra (say £50 sterling for 140 acres, for ever); they are situate close to the village, on the north and west.

Guardia del Monte is a small village of 770 inhabitants, with a church, school, prison, twenty-five shops, and sixty-eight rateable houses: of these latter the best belong to Lecea, Larosa, Bastro, Calderon, Mosquera, Arata, Terrero, San Miguel, Sosa, Mencequez, Pinel, Martinez, and Obrego, valued

from \$50,000 upwards. The place is dedicated to St. Michael, and was founded in 1744, when the southern frontier line was drawn from Chascomus to Monte, Navarro, and Luxan. The principal shop-keeper is Don Feliciano Lecea, who is also agent for the *Standard*. The new church cost \$800,000, which was defrayed partly by the Municipality and partly by subscription, the Provincial Government giving \$80,000; among the most liberal subscribers were the Scotch and other Protestant residents. The new school-house cost \$300,000, the Government also giving \$80,000. It is proposed to build a priest's house, Municipal hall, &c., to improve the look of the village, which is exceedingly dreary and wild: the houses are very scattered, and the place has made little progress for 125 years. The state-school is attended by 45 girls and 34 boys, and there is a private school at which 93 females are educated.

Guardia del Monte is distant 9 leagues from Ranchos, 11 from Jeppener Station, 3 from the nearest point of the Salado, and 6 from Terrero's bridge over the same river. Justice of Peace, Dr. Manuel Ocantos; Post-master, Don Feliciano Lecea; Curate, Rev. Joaquin Viera; Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$500,000.

Saladillo.

Situate 33 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 200 square leagues, a large portion of which is public land.

This is a frontier partido, extending S.W. from the Arroyo Saladillo to the Indian territory. It is bounded on the N. by the Saladillo, on the W. by 25 de Mayo and the Indian country, on the S. by the Arroyo Las Flores, and on the E. by the lakes of the Rio Salado, which are formed by the confluence of the Saladillo and Las Flores. The central districts of the partido are watered by the rivers above-mentioned, and on the frontier side we find Lakes Potrillo, Verdosa and Vallimanca, besides the arroyos which feed same, and numberless small lagoons. Ten years ago it was completely Indian territory, and although still much exposed to inroads of the savages the partido is making some progress: the total valuation in 1862 was only 6,000,000, now it exceeds 13,000,000. There are few foreign estancieros, yet the number of our countrymen engaged in sheep and cattle mostly on rented land, is estimated at 500. The largest estancias is that of Messrs. Toledo, Galindez, and Atucha, between the Cañada del Vigilante and a place called Tres Bonetes on the Las Flores river. The lands of Decoud and Bedoya also cover a large tract of country, lying between the Laguna Los Amigos and the above-named river. Further

east is the Atucha estancia, near Lake Cardalito, and adjoining this is the Estancia Argentina with six small lagoons. El Paraíso is the property of Martín Hardoy, which reaches north to the Saladillo, and has also several lagoons. La Fortuna is the name of Cazón's estancia, and this as well as Varela's and Barrera's lie between the village and river of Saladillo; Bazán and Butler are nearer to the village. Rodríguez is situated on Lake Potrillo, and southward are the lands of Aguilera, Segundo, Villafañe, Zapiola, and Pereyra, till reaching the river Las Flores. The Carranza estancia extends along the Arroyo Pantanoso, in direction of the frontier. About seven leagues S.W. of the village of Saladillo is Fort Arevalo, and in its vicinity are the estancias of Leman, Estanel, Albert, Piñero, and Roberts. Between the fort and the present frontier we meet the following settlers—Mendez, Serantes, and Acosta. A league beyond the last named estancia is Fort Vallimanca, close to the lagoon of the same name: it is on the land of Don Mariano Unzué. The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Toledo,	18½	Sra. Castro,	6
M. Hardoy,	7¾	Pereyra,	1
J. Bedoya,	6	Villafañe,	1
J. Cazón,	6	L. Albert,	6
A. Cascallares,	1	Mendez,	3½
Ferreira, family, ...	1½	Frias,	1½
Figuerola,	¼	Caldevia,	3
Barrera,	10	Atucha, family,	7
Justo,	6	Hernandez,	1
Carranza, family,	12	M. V. Paz,	1
Segundo,	1	M. Cascallares,	1
Bazán,	1	Mena,	1
P. Roberts,	3½	J. M. Paz,	½
Estanel,	½	Refort,	1¼
John Connor,	3	Rodríguez, family,	3½
T. Varela,	2¾	Unzué, family,	4
Thomas Cormack,	2	Sra Acosta,	6
Casavalle,	2	Zapiola,	1
Decoud & Co.,	8½	Leman,	1
Rojas,	1	Piñero,	2½
Rosales,	½	Serantes,	3½
Mosqueira,	¼	Arenilla,	1
Butler,	1½	«La Argentina,»	3
Aguilera,	5		

The frontier runs southward from this fort eight leagues east-south-east to Fort Estomba, beyond the river Las Flores, and thence due south seven leagues, to Fort Estomba, within a league of the new town of Tapalquen. The frontier runs N. from Fort Vallimanca, seven leagues, to Fort Cruz de Guerra, which is eight leagues S.W. of the town of 25 de Mayo, and nearly the same distance S.E. of Nueve de Julio. The only estancias outside the frontier of Saladillo are those of Castro, Justo, Caldeira, and John Connor: our countryman is in the heart of the Indian territory, being eighteen leagues S.W. of the village of Saladillo, and five beyond Fort Vallimanca. This partido is about twenty-five leagues long, from the Salado to the desert, and eight leagues wide from the Arroyo Saladillo to Las Flores river. The returns of stock are—177,402 cows, 28,372 horses, 5,124 fine sheep, 1,002,478 mestiza sheep, 19,812 creole sheep, and 1,848 pigs; being an average of 900 cows, 150 horses, and 5,000 sheep per square league. The land is valued at \$160,000 to \$240,000 per league. Contribucion tax, \$52,000. Population—4,620 Argentines, 330 Spaniards, 247 English, 241 French, 244 Italians, 18 Germans, 4 Indians, 42 various; total, 5,746. There are 18 houses and 898 ranchos, including 18 pulperias: 6 alcaldes, 24 tenientes, 14 police, and 1,180 National Guards.

The new town of Saladillo as yet counts only twenty houses, the best of which are those of Lese and Atusar, valued at \$40,000 each. The place is in its infancy, and the state school has not yet been established; neither is there any municipality, although the municipal revenue amounts to \$220,000. A space of four square leagues around the town has been marked out for chacras, which will probably be ceded gratis to settlers. The Justice of Peace is Don Maximo Cabral, who also acts as postmaster; Curate, Rev. Marcial Elia. Close to the town are two lagoons, called Las Ovejas and Bustamante. The department takes its name from the Arroyo Saladillo, which rises near the frontier, at Lake Potrillo, and falls into the Rio Salado, after a course of nearly thirty leagues eastward.

Saladillo is 10 leagues S. of the Rio Salado, 8 S.E. of 25 de Mayo, 13 N.W. of the town of Las Flores, 16 N. of Tapalquén, and 14 N.E. of Fort Vallimanca.

Las Flores.

This district, which is 190 square leagues in extent, is divided from Ranchos and Guardia del Monte by the River Salado; the Arroyo de las

Flores bounds it on the N.W., and divides it from the district of Saladillo; the arroyos Azul and Gualichu bound it on the S.E., dividing it from the district of Rauch; on the S.W. it is bounded by the districts of Azul and Tapalquen.

The town was founded in 1857, and laid out on the same plan as Chivilcoy, the streets are thirty yards wide. The present population of the town is estimated at 2,300, that of the whole district is about 9,000. 1,330 foreigners reside here, of these, 150 are British subjects, 72 Germans, 8 Americans, 308 Frenchmen, 340 Italians, 330 Spaniards, and 122 from other countries.

The town is situated 8 leagues outside the river Salado, 38 leagues from Buenos Ayres, and 21 leagues from Jeppener station, on the Southern Railway. A splendid bridge, probably one of the best in the country, spans the river Salado in this district. A branch of the Southern Railway from Jeppener station to this bridge has been much talked of. There is a splendid circular race course, in the suburbs, sixteen squares (2,400 yards) in circumference; this race-course has a treble fence of wire and posts, a stand for the stewards, and a straight course, five squares long, laid out across the field for those who prefer trying the mettle of their steeds in a straight line. There are two schools, attended by sixty boys and fifty girls. The church is small, but a new one is about to be built, which will cost close on \$1,000,000: one of our countrymen, Mr. Kelly, is member and secretary of the building committee, and Mr. Hunt is the architect. The cemetery is one of the largest and neatest in the country districts.

Las Flores has one judge, six municipal members, one notary public, six *alcaldes*, thirty *tenientes*, one constable of police, and fourteen policemen. There are twenty extensive dry goods and grocery stores in the town, one very good hotel, three second class hotels, one very extensive hardware store, one timber yard, two flour mills, three bakers, two confectioners' shops, two barbers' shops, six carpenters' shops, two blacksmiths' shops, four brick-kilns, fourteen bricklayers, one silversmith, one saddler, four tailor shops, two painters, nine bootmakers' shops, five butchers' shops, two tinsmiths, one post-office. A mail coach plies between Las Flores and Buenos Ayres every third day, passing through Guardia del Monte, Cañuelas, and Moron on the western route, and by Terrero's bridge to Jeppener station on the southern route. The coach to Tapalquen calls at Las Flores in transit. The only qualified medical practitioner and apothecary in the district is Mr. D. C. Kelly.

The *quintas* and *chacras* that surround the town are all surveyed; the *chacras* consist of twenty-five squares of ground, about 100 acres, and

may be purchased out and out for about 7s. sterling per acre. There are 204 estancias in the district—these vary in size from half a league to ten leagues. The principal foreign estate owners in the district are:—Messrs. White, Robson; D. C. Kelly, Manson, Gebbie, Mason, Beckford, Brown, Foster, Luitcher, Seeber, Muller, Schmarsow, and Wehmayer. Mr. Solanet has a graseria and a press for baling wool on his establishment. Mr. Musgrave has also a graseria, and an apparatus to dip sheep so as to prevent or cure scab. Mr. Gebbie and Mr. Shannon are about putting up boilers to render down fat sheep. Mr. Chas has an extensive establishment, wherein he breeds rams. The Messrs. Amadeo, Van Praet, Elizalde, Ramirez, Paz, Rojas, Galindez, and Portuguez, are owners of extensive estates in this district.

The official returns of property are:—

Name.	S Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Ramirez, family,	14	Baranda, family,	1½
M. V. Paz,	4	G. Manson,	1
Van Praet,	6½	Chaves, family,	1
Elizalde,	3	Otero,	½
H. Solanet,	3½	Dantas,	½
Rosas, family,	7	Lopez,	½
Chas,	7½	Manso,	½
Peredo,	3½	Tudury,	½
Rojas,	3	Amarillo,	½
Aguilera,	1½	Wehmayer,	½
Amadeo,	3½	San Miguel,	½
Jas. White,	2	Marquez, family,	1½
Bedoya,	2	Pedrosa,	½
Galindez,	2	Gorchs,	¾
Cascallares,	1	Tobias Enz,	1
Angenelo,	¾	Barceló,	1
Acosta, family,	1½	C. Luitcher,	1½
J. Brown,	¾	Utrera,	1
F. Foster,	½	Zelarayan,	1
Benavidez,	½	Santillan,	1¾
Domecq,	½	J. Portugues,	1
Gallardo,	½	Dominguez,	1
Gutierrez,	½	Landavaro,	1
Cabo,	½	Martinez, family,	1½
Sosa, family,	¾	Seebers,	1
D. C. Kelly, ....	..	Fernandez, family,	1½

Nombre.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Ancina, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Robinson, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Fonda, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Brunet, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
Farias, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Lerdon, .....	.... $\frac{3}{4}$
«Nueve de Julio,» .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	F. Lecca, .....	.... 1
Gebbie Bros., .....	.... 1	Coronel, family, .....	.... 1
C. Solanet, .....	.... 1	Angli, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Fredes, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Lozano, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Villa, .....	.... 1	Almada, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Sosa, family, .....	.... 1	Esponda, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Valladares, .....	.... 2	Preciado, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Bareda, .....	.... 1	Grais, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Alvarez, .....	.... 1	Ludueña, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Romero, family, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Fuentes, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
John Belford, .....	.... 1	Miranda, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Ortiz, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{4}$	M. Schmarsow, .....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Arauz, family, .....	.... $1\frac{1}{2}$	Gadea, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$
Diaz, .....	.... 1	Edward Muller, .....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$

The land is valued at \$150,000 to \$260,000 per square league. Total valuation 38,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1862. This partido is well suited for beginners about to embark in sheep-farming.

The present value of good land is \$100,000 per square league: all the grazing land of the district is in private hands, with the exception of some few small lots of marshy ground. The district is stocked with 128,700 head of black cattle, 48,000 mares and horses, 210 mules and asses, close on 2,000,000 sheep, and 1,280 pigs, being an average of 600 cows, 250 horses, and 10,000 sheep per square league. There are 1,630 houses in the town and district. There were 560 carts registered during the year; it is probable there are another hundred not registered. The Municipal income is about \$200,000 per annum. There were 112 persons married during the past year, and 460 children baptized. The annual average mortality is about 150; 35 per cent. of these are infants under one year, which may be attributed to bad nursing; 14 per cent. of the children between the ages of one and three also perish; this shows that nearly 50 per cent. of the entire mortality takes place in children under three years of age. While Mr. Powell, the Protestant clergyman, resided in this country he occasionally officiated in the district; Mr. Gebbie, the Presbyterian clergyman, pays the district an occasional visit. The number of «guias» (permits) to export fat stock and other produce from Las Flores amounted to 650 during the past year. Contribution tax, \$160,000.

We recommend strangers who visit this partido to call upon Mr. Danie C. Kelly, who resides in the town, and who is always ready and willing to afford every useful information about the place. The lands are good, open, and cheap, and many chances offering in this district, not to be found elsewhere.

Las Flores is the head or presidential town of an electoral section, composed of five districts or partidos. The commander, major, and staff of the 16th cavalry regiment reside in this town. The Porvenir Life Insurance Company has an agency in Las Flores, the Justice of Peace, Parish Priest, and many others have taken out policies; Mr. D. C. Kelly is agent to this company, he is also agent to the *Standard*, *Tribuna*, and *Boletín Oficial* newspapers. Justice of Peace, Don Manuel V. Paz; Postmaster, Don Manuel W. Ceballos; Curate, Rev. Pedro Ferraris.

Tapalquen.

Situate 48 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 200 square leagues, and comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues
Balcarce,	14	Palaeio,	1½
J. B. Peña,	12	Dantiarg,	½
Lezama,	3	Ponce,	⅓
Pereyra,	3½	S. Rosas,	6
Sosa,	2¼	Spigno,	6
Jurado, family,	9⅓	Larroy,	3
Patino,	1½	V. Casares,	9¾
Ayrala,	⅞	Belem & Co.,	2½
Navarro,	¾	Bedoya,	4
Barrionovo,	6	J. Portugues,	11
Barrère,	3	Posse,	3
Urbina,	1½	Belgrano, family,	11
Goya,	4⅓	P. Sheridan,	13
Rua,	2	M. Ruiz,	5
Gonsalez,	1½	Ricabarra, family,	5
Labarrudo,	1	Silva, do.	20
Carrizo,	1	Zabala, do.	1½

This partido is as yet only half reclaimed from the Indians, who still form

one-fourth of the population. It extends about twenty-six leagues in length, from the borders of Flores on the N.E. to the Sierra de Quillalanquen on the S.W., and is about eight leagues wide, from the Las Flores river to the borders of Azul. Nearly one-half the partido is outside the frontier line, which runs through the new town of Tapalquén, southwards eighteen leagues to Fort Perdido, in the hills beyond Azul, and northwards to Fort Esperanza, on the River Las Flores. The partido takes its name from the Arroyo de Tapalquén, which traverses almost the whole district and is lost in the desert: the word is of Indian origin, as are all of similar termination given to the lakes and hills of the south. Sheridan's estancia is one of the largest, and adjoins Fort Esperanza, on the River Las Flores. The lands of Portugues, Bedoya, Goya, and Posse are eastward, on the borders of Las Flores partido. San Nicolas is the name of Peña's large possessions, which comprise, moreover, two large lagoons, called Zancas and Plumagujers. The estancia of Casares is at Lake Las Toscas, four leagues south of Sheridan's. On the frontier between Fort Esperanza and Tapalquén are settled Ruiz, Jurado, Balcarce, and Belen. The Balcarce territory is over six leagues long, and comprises Fort Estomba and the site marked out for the new town of Tapalquén. The old Indian settlement called Tapera de Tapalquén was situate four leagues further south, on the arroyo of same name, in the midst of the immense territory now belonging to the heirs of Juan M. Silva, which covers 200 square miles and is studded with lagoons: these lands are outside Fort Pereda in the department of Azul. The lands of Rosas, Ricabarra, Barrionovo, and Spigno are within a radius of five leagues from Fort Estomba; but further out are Barrère, Larroy, and Belgrano, who are only five leagues inside the hill range or Sierra of Quillalanquén: this range is fourteen leagues S.W. of Tapalquen, and sixty-two S.W. of Buenos Ayres city. The partido has made little progress, owing to the dread of Indians. The lands inside of the frontier are valued at \$100,000 to \$140,000 per square league, but those of Balcarce and others out outside settlers are assessed only at \$66,000 per league.

The returns of stock are—163,386 cows, 16,434 horses, 260,086 mestiza sheep, 49,220 creole sheep, and 1,180 pigs; being an average of 800 cows, 80 horses, and 1300 sheep per square league. Land valuation 6,000,000, against 3,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$24,000. Population—1,506 Argentines, 535 Indians, 34 Spaniards, 21 Italians, 10 French, 6 English, 5 Germans, 26 various; total, 2,143. There are 8 houses and 320 ranchos, including 11 pulperias: 6 alcaldes, 24 tenientes, 12 police, and 350 National Guards.

The new town of Tapalquen counts as yet only two shops and a few houses: it is situate on the Arroyo Tapalquen, about a league S.E. of Fort Estomba, 9 leagues N. of Azul, 17 S.W. of Las Flores, 16 S. of Saladillo, and 20 S. of 25 de Mayo. It is in the straight line from Buenos Ayres to Bahia Blanca, and may almost be considered as half-way, being 67 leagues N.E. of Bahia Blanca. As yet there are no municipality, church, or schools in the partido. Some lots have been devoted for chacras, in an area of four square leagues around the new town; there are forty-five chacras under cultivation. Justice of Peace, Don José M. Jurado, who also acts as postmaster.

CHAP. VIII.

SOUTHERN PARTIDOS.

BARRACAS TO DOLORES.

South Barracas.

SITUATE one league south of Buenos Ayres, being separated from the city by the Arroyo de Riachuelo, has an area of four square leagues, mostly occupied by saladeros, quintas and chacras, as already described in pages 92—98 of Section B.

The saladeros are as follows:—

Name.	Value.	Name.	Value.
J. Panthou,	\$600,000	Senillosa's heirs,	\$550,000
Berizo (Lezica's),	450,000	Soler,	400,000
Sra. Senillosa,	500,000	Cambaceres,	1,100,000
Santamaria & Llambi, 1,200,000		Herrera & Baudriz,	750,000
Saavedra & Armstrong, 600,000		Muñoz,	650,000
Anderson,	367,000	Cobo,	300,000

The slaughter for the present season (1869) is estimated at 500,000 oxen and mares, exclusive of sheep. The wages paid last year to saladero peons exceeded \$12,000,000, say £100,000 sterling. Most of the inhabitants are engaged in this business, and they are chiefly Basques or Italians.

There are 214 chacras, covering 13,000 acres of tillage. The principal chacras and quintas are those of—Gimenez, Demarchi, Ugalde, Piñero, Nuñez, Torres, Pazos, Ortiz, Sanders, Solier, Mackinlay, Munita, Carboné, Ramirez, Fernandez, Canadi, Linatz, Suarez, Uzman, Droyer, Sansat, Fecher, Nuñez, Castro, Luton, and Zuñiga, all valued over \$100,000.

The partido is bounded on the N. and W. by the Riachuelo, otherwise called the Rio de Matanzas, on the S. by the Lomas de Zamora, and on the E. by the River Plate. The land is generally low and swampy, but produces good meadow crops. There are no estancias; the farming stock is set down at—2,787 cows, 1,958 horses, 168 fine sheep, 2,273 mestiza sheep, 1,511 creole sheep, and 2,023 pigs. Population—4,930 Argentines, 794 French, 657 Spaniards, 622 Italians, 47 Germans, 37 English, 163 various: total 7,250. There are 207 houses and 392 ranchos: 5 alcaldes, 37 tenientes, 8 police, and 372 National Guards. Property valuation 29,000,000, against 6,000,000 in 1862; Contribucion tax, \$116,000. Municipal revenue, \$142,000.

Barracas is a busy and flourishing village of 5,000 inhabitants, with a very fine church, state-schools, and 150 shops and houses. There are 280 carts in constant traffic. There are twelve private schools, at which 418 children are educated, besides 110 at the state-schools. In last year there were 51 marriages, 436 baptisms, and 333 burials; The village is connected with town by the Boca and Southern Railways, which run twenty-eight trains daily, each way. The Artesian Well, railway-bridge, &c. have been already noticed in Section B. Justice of Peace, Don Juan M. Nuñez; Curate, Rev. Sebastian Lozano; Post-master, Don Manuel Esteves.

Lomas de Zamora.

Situate three leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of eleven square leagues, and comprises seventeen estancias and eighty-one chacras: of the former the principal are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
John Fair, ....	.... $1\frac{3}{4}$	Acosta, .....	.... $\frac{1}{8}$
Ortega, family, ....	.... 2	Correa, .....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$
Bursaco, .....	.... $\frac{1}{2}$	Obligado, ....	.... $\frac{1}{4}$

Fair's estancia at Monte Grande is a very fine establishment, in the best English style; all the lands have been fenced in, at enormous expense, and a large portion is now dedicated to agriculture. This place is of historic interest in the annals of our industry, for it was here that Mr. Robertson

started his Scotch colony, in 1825, the colony embracing also the adjacent estate of Santa Catalina. Most of the leading Scotch estancieros and capitalists of the present day began life here in the honorable but humble occupation of ploughmen and farm-servants, and although the enterprise was unsuccessful as regards its originator, it is gratifying to know that Robertson's colonists were an immense gain to the country, and their names are now identified with the industry, wealth, and advancement of Buenos Ayres. The estate subsequently passed into the hands of the present enterprising owner, who pays much attention to refining the breed of horses, cattle, and sheep. The estancia is managed by Mr. Strangers coming to the country often pay this place a visit. The house is surrounded by a large plantation or «monte,» which gives its name to the estate. The land alone is assessed by Government at £10,000 sterling, and the whole property represents a large amount of invested capital. Mr. Fair projected a branch railway hither from Las Lomas Station, but it has not been carried out.

The chacra of Santa Catalina, belonging to Mr. Bookey, is unrivalled in the River Plate for its lawns, gardens, and plantations: it covers 206 cuadras or 900 acres, and formed the residence of Mr. Robertson, the gardens and plantations having been laid out by Mr. Tweedie, who began life as landscape gardener to a nobleman in Scotland, and died a few years ago a respected merchant of Buenos Ayres. A few words about Robertson's colonists may here be interesting. In 1825 the Government of Buenos Ayres, being anxious to introduce habits of industry into the country, made arrangements for two Scotch colonies; Mr. Beaumont was to establish one in Entre Rios, Mr. John Parish Robertson a second at Monte Grande. The first, on arrival, found that the land promised them could not be obtained, so they had recourse to their individual abilities to make a living in the new country. The second began favorably at Monte Grande, and the best methods of Scotch farming were soon seen in full play on the pampas; several handicrafts were also successfully carried on, and the women raised milk, butter, cheese, and eggs in large quantities, although the use of milk and butter was then unknown in Buenos Ayres. The spiritual wants of the colonists were attended to by the late talented Rev. Dr. Brown; and all went well till the Brazilian war broke out. The currency of Buenos Ayres became depreciated, disputes arose between the colonists and Mr. Robertson, the establishment was broken up, many bright hopes were dispelled, and Mr. Robertson was ruined. It is said that he had expended £30,000 alone on the mansion-house and ornamental plantations of Santa Catalina: these woods contain over 2,000,000 trees, principally acacia,

paradise, peach, espinillo, &c., and the visitor will also find some friends of childhood in the hawthorn, oak, beech, holly, aspen, elm, and ivy, which are nowhere else to be seen in South America. The Scotch colonists did not suffer themselves to be cast down by their reverses, but steadily turned their attention to the business of life: some of them came into town, and, after years of hard labor, succeeded in making handsome fortunes; the rest settled down to rural pursuits and became in a short time owners of great tracts of land and countless flocks and herds. Dr. Brown resolved also to stand by his countrymen: he took an apartment in the city to serve as a chapel, and added to his slender income by teaching. Steps were soon taken to raise funds for building a church, and Dr. Brown was sent to England to seek aid from the Government: in this he was so successful that an Act of Parliament was passed (6th George IV.), giving for the support of English and Scotch churches abroad a sum equivalent to that subscribed by the local residents, and this arrangement is still in force.

South of Santa Catalina is the Ortega estancia, and eastward of the latter is the Bursaco property, mostly under Indian corn; it is traversed by the Southern railway, and has over a thousand acres richly cultivated. The lands of Correa are nearer to the village of Las Lomas.

Many of the chacras are of great extent, and all are covered with rich corn-fields or meadow-farms, to the extent of 20,000 acres: the principal are—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
Bell,	203	Zuñiga,	100
Avellaneda,	135	Lanoao,	100
Gonsalez,	120	Mrs. Kidd,	40
Foutriel,	120	Plans, family,	142
Torres,	100	Bay,	128
George Temperley,	54	Avila,	123
Correa,	106	Amendebun,	111
Brun,	114	Ferben,	106
Lanus,	140	H. Pringles,	60

Of these the finest certainly is Mr. Temperley's, about half a mile beyond the Lomas station, close to the line of railway. The house and grounds are exceedingly tasteful, forming one of the prettiest suburban residences about town: the property has been much enhanced in value by the Southern railway passing through it, and Mr. Temperley has sold numerous lots to English and American merchants who are establishing country-houses here. On the opposite side of the railway is Mr. Livingston's charming place, surrounded by fruit and flower gardens.

Nearer to the village are the properties of Green, Drabble, Grigg, &c. East of the railway, in the midst of shady avenues and thickets is Mrs. Kidd's family hotel, an excellent house, where the traveller or invalid may pass a week very pleasantly, with all the comforts of an English home, and free from the bustle of the city. Messrs. Henry, Makern, and others have recently purchased, and a new English hotel has been started.

The village of La Paz, more generally known as «Las Lomas,» is situated on a rising ground which commands a view of the city: the air is peculiarly fresh and bracing, and the locality reputed the most healthy about town. The village is in its infancy, having only three shops and a dozen houses around the church: the latter is a very handsome structure, and the vista on every side is lost in green lanes and pretty quintas. There is a good fonda near the station. The state school is attended by 50 boys and 35 girls. Not far from the church there is a country-house, recently built by Marshall of Barracas. A couple of miles nearer town is the quinta of Don Anacarsis Lanuz, with a fine residence and plantations of lofty poplars: the railway has made a station hard by.

The stock returns of the partido are—3,526 cows, 1,967 horses, 12,951 fine sheep, 62,140 mestiza sheep, being an average of 500 cows, 300 horses, and 11,000 sheep to the square league. Population—803 Argentines, 155 French, 117 Italians, 47 English, 41 Spaniards, 38 Germans, 1 Indian, 53 various—total 1,255. There are 89 houses and 200 ranchos, including 16 pulperias. There are 4 alcaldes, 16 tenientes, and 10 police. The land is mostly valued at \$1,000 to \$1,500 per cuadra. Total valuation \$16,000,000, against \$3,000,000 in 1862; Contribucion tax, \$64,000. Municipality, four members; municipal revenue, \$138,000. Justice of Peace, Don Victorio Grigera; Postmaster, Don Gregorio Larios.

Lomas de Zamora is 2 leagues S. of Barracas, 2 W. of Quilmes, 4 S.E. of Moron, 9 N.E. of Cañuelas, 6 N. of San Vicente, and 9 N.W. of Ensenada.

San Vicente.

Situate ten leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of fifty-six square leagues, and comprises 74 estancias and 123 chacras.

This partido was one of the first wherein sheep-farming was experimented in Buenos Ayres, and fully half its extent is owned by foreigners. It is very thickly settled with English and Germans, who number over a thousand, and hold some of the finest estancias in the country. The lands are generally very low, but the grass is considered

good for fattening sheep. The principal water-courses are the affluents of Samborombon, and there are some large lagoons in the neighbourhood of the village of San Vicente. The partido is bounded on the N. by Quilmes and the Lomas, on the W. by Cañuelas, and on the S. by Ranchos, and on the E. by Ensenada and Magdalena.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
George Bell,	2	Alvarez, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Harratt,	$1\frac{3}{4}$	James Bell,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Lopez Seco,	$2\frac{1}{4}$	George M'Farquhar,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Udaquiola,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Valdes,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Saenz Peña,	$1\frac{1}{8}$	William Corrales,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rodriguez,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Acosta,	$\frac{1}{4}$
P. Diaz,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gutierrez,	1
Avila,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Quiroga,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Quinteros,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Peralta,	$\frac{3}{8}$
Casco, family,	1	D. Kenny,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sanchez,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Faulkes,	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Diaz Velez,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Mrs. Williams,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Abascal,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Ed. Freers,	1
Gomez,	$\frac{3}{8}$	Donselaar, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Barragan, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Mrs. Daly,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Barda,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Avalos,	$\frac{3}{8}$
W. M'Gaw,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Villoldo, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$
N. Nelson,	$\frac{1}{2}$	John Glew,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lopez,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Godoy, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
C. Galvan,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Gonsalez,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Robinson,	1	Caceres,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Llanos, family,	$2\frac{1}{8}$	Campos, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Bursaco,	$\frac{3}{4}$	N. Jordan,	$\frac{1}{8}$
N. Buchanan,	$\frac{1}{2}$	George Temperley,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Ferrari,	$\frac{3}{8}$	G. Fillan,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Wilkie,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Aguilera,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Merlo, family,	$1\frac{1}{4}$	Arce,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Casimir Smyth,	$\frac{1}{6}$	Ferguson Bros.,	$\frac{3}{8}$
Cambaceres,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Carabajal,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Avellaneda,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Leon,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Pardo,	$\frac{3}{8}$	Gowland,	1

The Harratt estancia is another first-class establishment, the late Mr. Harratt having been one of the first (along with Peter Sheridan) to devote

his attention to the importation of prize sheep from Europe for the refinement of the breed in this country: Harratt's merinos are considered some of the finest and best, and the stranger cannot do better than to pay a visit to this famed «cabaña.» On this estancia there is a good wayside hotel known as Sutton's, where comfortable quarters may be had, and the country around affords excellent shooting: Mr. Randle, the proprietor, is very attentive to visitors.

A league south of San Vicente village is George Bell's fine estancia called Viamont: it is intersected by an arroyo of the Sanborombon. Mr. Bell is one of the chief landed proprietors in the River Plate, having numerous estancias both in this province and the Banda Oriental; he was one of the Monte Grande colonists already mentioned. South-west of this estancia is that belonging to the heirs of the late Mrs. Williams, an industrious Irishwoman who came hither from the Queen's Co., over forty years ago.

Glew's and Bursaco's estancias are near the Glew Station on the Southern Railway; the first has a pretty plantation around the house, the second is mostly under grain. The lands of Nelson and Ferguson adjoin those of Harratt, in the direction of Ranchos. The line of railway from San Vicente to Sanborombon traverses the estancias of Freers, Donselaar, McFarquhar, Urdaquiola, Wilkie, and Faulkes. Eastward of the two last mentioned estates are those of Temperley, Daley, and Corrales, which are watered by two arroyos which fall into the Sanborombon. Gowland is on the borders of Ensenada, and Ferrari near the station of the same name.

Land is valued at \$400,000 per league: total valuation 22,000,000, against 17,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax, \$88,000. Stock returns—7,693 cows, 17,173 horses, 5,450 fine sheep, 1,470,494 mestiza sheep, 956 creole sheep; being an average of 150 cows, 300 horses, and 29,000 sheep per square league. The amount of land under tillage is estimated at four square leagues, or about 25,000 acres. Population—4,012 Argentines, 480 English, 397 Italians, 386 Spaniards, 295 Germans, 248 French, 3 Indians; total 6,030. There are 89 houses and 1,222 ranchos, including 29 pulperías. There are five alcaldes, 25 tenientes, 12 police, and 659 National Guards.

San Vicente is a poor village a league from the railway station, with which communication is kept up by an omnibus. Formerly in wet seasons the village was entirely cut off by «bañados» and marshes, from all traffic with the city. An effort has been made to improve the place by getting up a number of quintas, but neither this nor even the railway has succeeded

in imparting the least vitality to San Vicente. There are—a church, state-schools, seven shops, and forty-two rateable houses, the best of the latter being those of Peter Wilch, John Freers, Peter Johnson, Parody, M. Borel, Fernandez, and Iriciti, valued from \$50,000 upwards. The state school is attended by 25 boys and 32 girls. The Irish residents of this district are visited by Rev. Mr. Mullady, of Chascomus. The Scotch residents attend on Sundays at a chapel near Robson's estancia.

Justice of Peace, Don Ramon Sotelo; Curate, Rev. Domingo Scavini; Postmaster, Don Carlos Secchi; Municipality, six members; municipal revenue, \$88,000.

San Vicente is $6\frac{1}{2}$ leagues south of Las Lomas, 6 east of Cañuelas, 11 N.E. of Guardia del Monte, $10\frac{1}{2}$ N. of Ranchos, and 10 W. of Ensenada.

Ranchos.

Situate twenty leagues south of Buenos Ayres, had formerly an area of ninety square leagues, now reduced to sixty-three.

This partido was the cradle of sheepfarming in Buenos Ayres, and the industry will be for ever identified with the names of Sheridan, Hannah, and Harratt, from whose «cabañas» are descended most of the refined flocks of the north, west, and south. The lands of Ranchos are in many places low and marshy, and suffer at times from overflowing of the lagoons and arroyo, but never from drought. The partido is bounded on the N. by San Vicente, on the W. by Guardia Monte, on the S. and E. by Chascomus; before the recent change of limits it extended southwards to the Rio Salado, but now it only touches that river at the Paso Ponce and Paso de Ramos, on the Lcpez and Villanueva estancias.

The largest estancias in the district of Ranchos now are those of Sheridan, Harratt, and Hannah. The breed of sheep at these estancias was originally the same, namely, those imported from France and Germany for the Government by Rivadavia. The death of Mr. Sheridan in 1844, and of Mr. Harratt in 1849, produced changes in the management detrimental to the breed of their sheep. Mr. Hannah's have had the advantage of his continuous superintendence from the beginning of 1827 to the present day. His stock includes a flock of about 500 pure Negrete ewes and a smaller number of Rambouillet, besides flocks of pure Merino blood, and crosses from the same with Negrete and Rambouillet rams. His mestiza breed may be considered such in name only, having been steadily crossed with pure rams for more than forty years.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
John Hannah,	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Barda, family,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Welchman,	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Garcia, do.	1
Harratt,	4	Balcedo,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Alegre, family,	$2\frac{3}{4}$	G. Hunt,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Petrona de O.,	1	Bernan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Dr. Gibbings,	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. Miller,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Genova,	$\frac{1}{8}$	H. Thwaites,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Pereyra,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Godoy,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Aguiar,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Cowan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Dominguez,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Churruca,	1
Rivero,	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. Bustos,	1
Diaz,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Merlo,	1
Gerez, family,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Aramburu,	1
Senillosa,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Gilez,	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Bryan Thorp,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Arista,	$\frac{2}{8}$
Cabrera, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Martinez, family,	1
W. Glennon,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Lara,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Negrete,	$\frac{8}{4}$	Ramirez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Villanueva,	2	Coronel,	$\frac{1}{2}$
A. Lopez,	2	Pinto,	$\frac{1}{4}$
P. Acosta,	1	P. Videla,	4
Sra. Chiclana,	1	Fernandez, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Figueroa,	1	W. Purvis,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Sotuyo, family,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Herrera, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Planes,	$\frac{1}{2}$	J. Pettigrew,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Montes,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Cardenas,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Pedernera,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Jeppener,	1
Pazos,	$\frac{1}{2}$		

In this district there are now very few large estancias. The estancias del Espartillar and Rincon de Vivot, formerly the two largest in the partido, although much nearer to the town of Ranchos than to Chascomus, have been annexed to the last named district.

At the Espartillar the experiment is being carried out of a cross between the half Lincoln ewes and the French merino breed Monchamp. The latter are not only very long in staple, but also of fine quality. Their wool is used in the manufacture of «muslin de laine» and other fabrics. It is hoped the experiment will succeed.

There are also, it is believed, some pure Negretti breed at Mr. Jeppener's estancia, and also some small «tropillas» of the same class at a few other estancias in the district.

From the Altamirano station to Ranchos the camps are very low. Don Pedro Alegre's estancia is about midway, with a handsome azotea house, gardens, and farm-yard. Several peach mounts are seen at short distances on both sides of the road, and after an hour's drive we come up to Dr. Gibbings' estancia. The doctor's residence displays a confused style of architecture, having been originally after the manner of an English cottage, and is flanked by castellated brick buildings, which have a very pretty effect in the perspective. But the quinta is the great object of attraction, consisting of a garden well-stocked with every kind of European fruit, and a peach mount laid out in avenues lined with poplars: in the garden are more than a hundred choice plants from San José, the gift of General Urquiza; and the avenues of the monte bear the names of Mitre, Drago, Rawson, Fernandez, &c., which they received when the late President and his Ministers visited the place in 1864. The whole place is very neatly kept, and is said to contain over a million trees and plants. This estancia was first settled by the ill-fated Planes, who sold it to Gervacio Rosas, and the latter disposed of it to Mr. John Duffy, now of Carmen de Areco, from whom it passed to its present hospitable owner. It was first called Los Ombues, from a group of those trees near the house, but now it is called Estancia de Humaytá, since the capture of the great Paraguayan fortress by the Allies. Dr. Gibbings gives grand festivities every New Year, which are attended by numbers of foreigners and neighbors, from town and country.

A league S.W. of Dr. Gibbings' estancia is that of the Planes family, and this place is remarkable for a terrible tragedy enacted there some fifteen years ago. Three leagues further S.W. we reach El Carmen, the splendid estate of Mr. Hannah. The new estancia-house is visible a long way, almost surrounded with trees. It is, perhaps, the finest edifice in the camp, and cost over £10,000 sterling. There are spacious «galpones,» where the fine sheep are kept and sundry prize rams of various breeds.

Mr. Hannah was the only person who got a silver medal at Paris for River Plate wools. The dip for curing sheep of the scab is constructed after the model of Mr. Musgrave's (formerly of Australia, now of Las Flores), and 2,000 sheep can be well dipped in half-a-day. Near the estancia-house is a little graveyard, where there are two head-stones to the memory of the Dr. Sheridan and Mr. Robert Hannah.

Within a league of Ranchos is the estancia of Figueroa and Gowland: the place was settled by a native in 1824, who bought an area of a league

square for \$30 s.: he sold it to Mr. Gowland in 1849 for \$200,000, including a rancho and 8,000 sheep. Since then it has received much improvement: the estancia-house where Señor Figueroa resides is a comfortable dwelling, surrounded by large «galpones» with French tile roofs, and the whole is sheltered by a plantation of peaches and poplars. Señor Figueroa is partner with Mr. Gowland, and Justice of Peace for the district. The estancia of Henry Thwaites lies between Ranchos and the railway, adjacent to the other estates of the family: there is a modern azotea house, with a large quinta for fruit and vegetables.

The Jeppener estancia is reputed one of the best for its size in the province. It is half a league from the station of that name, eastward, and the handsome galpon, with its turrit, rises above the surrounding plantation. The proprietor endeavored to establish a town close to the railway station, but it seems he set too high a value on the ground. Mr. Jeppener is now a barraquero in Barracas.

Three leagues west of Jeppener station is the famous Sheridan estancia, called Los Galpones, now the property of Mrs. Welchman. It was this lady's father, Peter Sheridan, who began sheepfarming in this country, endowing Buenos Ayres with a staple that now gives £3,000,000 sterling per annum. The Sheridan estates were the subject of long litigation, until a settlement was arrived at, a few years ago. On this estancia the Jockey Club held its meeting last September: the silver cup was presented by the Government of Buenos Ayres, and won by Mr. Tomkinson's Gauchito.

The land is valued at \$350,000 per square league. Total valuation, \$23,000,000; Contribucion tax, \$92,000. Stock returns—32,216 cows, 28,167 horses, 23,316 fine sheep, 1,086,485 mestiza sheep, and 1,700 swine, being an average of 500 cows, 450 horses, and 18,000 sheep per square league. Population—5,428 Argentines, 359 English, 459 French, 707 Spaniards, 321 Italians, 102 Germans, 212 various—total 7,588. There are 117 houses and 1,104 ranchos, including 63 pulperias. There are 7 alcaldes, 29 tenientes, 14 police, and 721 National Guards. Agriculture is generally in a backward state; there are 380 chacras and quintas, but mostly plantations of peaches and poplars.

Ranchos is a town in ruins. You pass through streets or lanes with roofless houses, at distances of thirty to fifty yards, showing that the place was once populous. In the plaza the same desolation reigns: a mud rancho used as a church, with one bell broken and another cracked; a fonda terminating a row of empty tenements; an almacén acting as post-office; and an arch for running «sertija», which seems a sarcasm upon the dreary sepulchral aspect of the town—*voilà tout!* If you extend your wandering through the teatantless streets, you come upon a decent house that belonged

to the late Dr. Sheridan, a quinta of Señor Casalins, a bakery, a carpenter's shop, and a boot-shop, the last sign of vitality in this «Deserted Village.» It is a marvel how these three artisans can even make out a living. The natives themselves say—«The place can no longer be called Ranchos, but Las Tumbas.» The ruin of Ranchos is generally ascribed to some Municipality or Justice of Peace, a few years ago, who suffered the cattle of the estancias to overrun the quintas and ruin the quinteros. A grand new church, capable of holding twice the population of the whole partido, is now being completed. In 1863 there were 51 rateable houses, of which only two were valued over \$50,000, viz.: those of Rosas and Eborall: since then the ruin has increased, and nothing can revive the place but the expected branch from the Southern Railway to the Rio Salado.

Ranchos was formerly an outpost on the Indian frontier, and you still see at the street-corners some of the old pieces of cannon used at that time. The streets are wholly impassable in rainy weather, and the quantity of dogs is unprecedented. The population is nominally set down at 1,600, but cannot reach half that figure; even on Sunday mornings you hardly see a dozen people at Mass or in the streets. The shop of the late Dr. Sheridan is now held by Mr. Thomas Nuttall; Señor Campero's shop in the old plaza is also well supplied, and the proprietor is most polite and attentive to strangers. Don Juan Garat runs a «diligencia» daily to and from Altamirano station, placing Ranchos within five hours' journey of the city: the «diligencia» fare is \$30. The Irish residents, about 300 in number, belong to the district of Chascomus, which is at present their parish. The state schools are attended by 46 boys and 45 girls.

Ranchos is five leagues west of Chascomus, and there intervenes a large lagoon called Lake Vitel: it is four leagues N.N.E. of Paso Ramos, on the Rio Salado; and four S.W. of Altamirano station, it is nine east of Guardia Monte, ten and a-half south of San Vicente, and seventeen S.W. of Magdalena.

Justice, Don Bernabé Figueroa; Curate, Rev. Andres Serrano; Postmaster, R. A. Flores. Municipality, six members; Municipal revenue, \$112,000.

Chascomus.

Situate twenty-four leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 180 square leagues, and comprises 118 estancias.

The principal estancias are:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Miguens, family,	13	Huergo,	3
Newton,	5	Ochoa,	3
Gandara,	5	Alsina,	2
Juan Fernandez,	4½	Lacombe,	1½
Calderon, family,	6	Lezama,	2½
George Bell,	3	Thwaites,	2½
Casalins, family,	6½	Nieto,	1½
Girado, family,	4	Acevedo,	1
Plowes,	2½	J. Nowell,	1
Jaime. family,	1½	Monasterio,	1½
Cabrera,	1	N. Johnston,	1
Casco,	1	Llanos,	1½
Anchorena,	1	Hernandez,	½
Zabala,	1	Gonsalia,	1
San Martin,	1	Garcilazo,	1
W. Sheddon,	1	Joseph Green,	1
Gomez,	1½	James Dods,	1
Diaz, family,	1½	John Dods,	½
Peter Brown,	1	Altamirano,	½
Aranda,	¾	Arroyo,	¾
Acosta,	½	Ayala,	½
Agüero,	⅓	Mrs. Mullady,	½
Machado, family,	1	Paez, family,	1
Montenegro,	¾	Robert Wilson,	½
Patrick Wallace,	1	Rincon,	½
Echagüe,	½	Portela,	¾
Fonzalida,	¾	P. Maxwell,	⅓
Perez,	¾	John Fessey,	⅓
Robert Wilde,	⅓	Soria, family,	¾
Aumada,	¾	Zaballos,	½
Barragan,	¼	Joseph Graham,	1
Pereyra,	¾	Duarte,	½
Kuffman,	2½	Vivot,	10
George Shiel,	½	John Fair,	6
John Y. Goe,	⅓	Alvarez, family,	2½
Doval,	¼	R. Buchanan,	½
Leguisamon,	1½	A. Benavente,	⅓
Frias,	3	Alexander Bell,	½

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Barbosa,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Ludueña, family,	$\frac{2}{8}$
James Burnet,	1	Ledesma,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Correa,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Molina,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Caos,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Piñeyro, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Castro,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Sosa, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Camblon,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Arrascaete,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Escribano,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Hugh Robson,	$\frac{1}{2}$
José Fernandez,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Avellaneda,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Ferrari, family,	1	Godoy,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Facia,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Isaurralde,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Figueroa,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Guevara,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Gadea,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Villaverde,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Guerreros,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Arrola,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Laiño,	$\frac{1}{2}$		

The partido is bounded on the east and north by the Sanborombon river, on the west by Ranchos, and on the south by the Rio Salado. A decree has been passed to form a new partido called Biedma in the district near the coast of the River Plate, and contained between the Sanborombon and the Salado rivers. This will strip Chascomus of the large estancias of Miguens, Ochoa, Alsina, Calderon, and Casalins, and the smaller ones of Huergo, Piñeyro, Escribano, Godoy, and Fretes. There is no partido in the province with a more abundant water supply than Chascomus: besides the two rivers which form its boundaries north and south, there are a dozen large lakes, viz.: Vitel, Chis-chis, Chascomus, Las Mulas, Esquivel, Encadenadas, Burro, Averias, Hinojal, Saladas, Tablilla, and Abrasadera, and numberless smaller ones. Until recently the estancia of John Fair and Vivot belonged to the partido of Ranchos.

The Espartillar, Mr. Fair's splendid estate, is about equi-distant from Ranchos and Chascomus, lying about four leagues S.S.E. of the former town. The estancia is visible about two leagues after leaving Ranchos, and presently you see a «cordon» of tasteful puestos; there are forty-two of these puestos on the estancia, all well built, with shingle roof, and some of them having fine plantations. Here and there you see a few clumps of esparta grass, which gives its name to the estancia. The house is pleasantly situated on high ground, overlooking a lagoon and arroyo. The out-offices are sheltered by venerable acacia trees, and an immense tract of fenced and arable land extends south and east. The first settler on the Espartillar was one Barati, over fifty years ago, and Mr. Reid still shows two old pieces of cannon used in that time against the Indians. The estancia comprises

more than six leagues, say 40,000 acres English, and the stock about 85,000 sheep, 3,000 horned cattle, besides horses, &c. In one flock are seen 300 fine sheep, Lincolns and their cross with other breeds. The Durham half-bred cows form a respectable «rodeo,» while the half-bred horses are really beautiful, these last are descended from two prize stallions (one cost 1,000 guineas) imported by Mr. Fair. Of the forty-two puestos some are held by Irishmen, others by Scotchmen, Basques, natives, &c. Mr. Fair has offered a rancho to be kept apart as a Catholic chapel, for the use of the Irish neighbors, but as yet this liberal offer has not been acted on. The Espartillar is considered one of the finest and best arranged establishments in the country, under the experienced management of Mr. Patrick Vans Agnew Reid: it was formerly owned by Mr. Ludlam: it is said that Mr. Fair was offered £30,000 for the estate and refused it. The Fair family have other large estates at Monte Grande and in the Banda Oriental.

Between the Espartillar and the Rincon de Rocha, on the Rio Salado, is the extensive Vivot estancia; it has several lagoons, and the proprietor is a deputy in the Provincial Legislature. The estancias of Kuffman and Thwaites lie between Chascomus and Ranchos, on the borders of Lake Vitel. Further north is the Gandara estancia, traversed by the Southern Railway, which has a station on the ground: the Gandara residence is a fine, modern building, surrounded by a peach mount with alleys of lofty poplars. The proprietor put up a «graseria» near the station, the machinery being by Marshall of Barracas; but the works are now suspended. Eastward are the lands of Diaz, Bell, Buchanan, and Benavente; and near the Sanborombon we find the estancias of Newton and other English proprietors. Newton's is a large and valuable property, well stocked with superior sheep and cattle: the wool is pressed and baled on the estancia, and shipped direct to England for the owner's account. The estancia-house has a fine monte and chaera, supplied with the choicest fruits and products: there is also a part of the establishment set apart for rearing silk-worms, which are doing remarkably well, and the samples of silk are excellent. The late Mr. Richard Newton, sen., was an active and enterprising Englishman, who accumulated a splendid fortune: he was a leading member of the Argentine Rural Association, and always in favor of works of progress: he essayed unsuccessfully to make an Artesian well on the estancia: the family possess various other fine estates on both sides of the River Plate. The Newton estancia goes by the name of Santa Maria, and is prettily situated on a rising ground above the Sanborombon.

Next to Newton's is Santa Catalina, which has been sub-divided between Robert Wilson, Hugh Robson, Mullady, and Hernandez. The late Mrs.

Mullady built a chapel on her land for the use of her Irish neighbors. Next comes the ancient estancia of Las Mulas, sub-divided between Mr. S. Newton, Ninian Johnston, J. Graham, Peter Brown, W. Shields, J. Bell, W. Bell, R. Buchanan, and the old estancia-house is occupied by Mr. William Dodd. To the south of Las Mulas is the Adela estancia, belonging to Mr. George Bell, at present held by Mr. John Dodd; and further south is the Estancia de Esperanza, the property of Ochoa & Co. of Buenos Ayres. All these camps are usually covered with luxuriant pasturage, and wethers for the «graserias» fetch \$30 a head.

The lands of Don Juan Nepomuceno Fernandez occupy all the intermediate country between the town of Chascomus and the Encadenadas lakes. The Anchorena property is at the Averias lagoon, occupied by Mr. William Ball, and Mr. Plowes has two fine estates, one east of Las Mulas, the other between Chischis and the Rio Salado: one of these belonged to the late Mr. James Carthy. South-east of Chischis are the estancias of Lacombe and Lezama, and nearer the Salado we find Girado, Montenegro and Aumada.

The Rincon de Biedma comprises many large estates. Those of Messrs. Nicanor and José Miguens extend from the Sanborombon to the Salado, and touch the coast of the River Plate at the place where the two first-named rivers empty their waters, only half a league apart. The Loma Alta, a little more inland, is the property of the Calderon family; and then come the estancias of Casalins and El Tigre; the latter is the property of Mrs. Palemon Huergo, and is chiefly rented out to Irishmen. The Pinero estancias are between El Tigre and Chascomus.

The land in this partido is valued at \$300,000 to \$500,000 per square league. Total value \$64,000,000, against \$30,000,000 in 1861. Contribucion tax \$256,000. This partido possesses the largest and most flourishing Scotch community in the country; they have a chapel at the Estancia Adela, besides another near Jeppener station, the first being attended by the Rev. Mr. Ferguson, the second by the Rev. Mr. Gebbie. The total English population is over 3,000, and the partido is increasing in value and population since the opening of the Southern Railway. Stock returns—53,700 cows, 74,370 horses, 27,000, fine sheep, 1,155,700 mestiza sheep, 5,700 creole sheep, and 1,900 swine; being an average of 300 cows, 450 horses, and 12,000 sheep per square league. There are 463 houses and 987 ranchos, including 125 pulperias. Population—9,115 Argentines, 2,701 French, 1,604 English, 1,910 Spaniards, 97 Italians, 37 Germans, 2 Indians, 121 various; total 15,590. There are 8 alcaldes, 30 tenientes, 14 police, and 900 National Guards. Agriculture is making much progress, the various sheep-farmers cultivating chacras for raising vegetables and fruit: there

are in all 162 chacras, with an aggregate of about 26,000 acres under tillage.

Chascomus is delightfully situated on the margin of a large lake, and within four hours' journey of town, by railway. In picturesque aspect, commercial importance, and rapid and progressive vitality, it can stand comparison with the best towns in the province, and is the centre of one of the most valuable of our sheep-farming districts. Its annual exports exceed \$30,000,000, (£240,000 sterling,) and the town boasts a handsome church and plaza, besides a small theatre. On one side of the Plaza is the Cabildo arcade, containing the Juzgado and public schools. The parish cura is Padre Ampognani, and the Rev. Mr. Ferguson is Scotch pastor. The latter gentleman is much esteemed by all classes of foreigners, and has resided here some years. The State-schools are very commodious, and the average attendance is sixty-five boys and ninety girls. There was formerly an English school, which ought to pay well. Previous to the cholera Dr. Crosbie practised here, but he fell a victim to the epidemic, and there is now but one native physician. There are two apothecaries, some good inns, and 42 shops. There are 105 rateable houses, the best being those of Casco, Machado, Aristeguin, Casagemas, Dutier, Arias, Alelay, Echave, Galy, Matieu, Olivares, Pereyra, Pereda, Unanue, Gomez, Gorostiaga, Casalins, Buft, Gandara, and Newton, valued from \$100,000 upwards. The best houses of business are those of Auld & Pettigrew, King, Zavala, and Milano; the first-named are the *Standard* agents. There is also a good photographer, Mr. Ferguson. But the great ornament of Chascomus is the Great Southern Railway terminus, a handsome building finished in English style, with spacious waiting-rooms, offices, &c. : all the materials are from the locality, the laguna providing excellent sand, and the Camarones estancias (belonging to Señor Aguero) having superior lime. Some years ago the Salado had a great 'creciente,' and the steamer Yerba ascended to Chascomus. Close to the lagoon is a handsome two-story mansion, built by Mr. Crawford, who made the railway, now owned by Mr. Armstrong: there is a charming view from the 'mirador,' especially when the lake is high. Chascomus was made a frontier post in 1744, but its progress was very slow till the opening of the Southern Railway, in 1865. It seems destined to outstrip all the other camp towns in importance, except perhaps Chivilcoy. The Irish Sisters of Mercy have established a branch-house here for the education of the Irish female children of the surrounding districts. There are several graserias for melting down sheep, and the freight of grease to the city forms a great feature in the goods traffic of the railway.

Chascomus is $4\frac{1}{2}$ leagues S.W. of the Sanborombon, 6 N.E. of the Rio

Salado, $4\frac{1}{2}$ E.S.E. of Ranchos, and 11 W. of the Rincon de Biedma, where it touches the coast of the River Plate: it is 17 leagues N.N.W. of Dolores.

Justice of Peace, Don Pedro Roca; Postmaster, Mr. Miles King; Municipality, six members; municipal revenue, \$320,000. Irish pastor, Rev. Thomas Mullady.

Dolores.

Situate 39 leagues S.S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 82 square leagues, and comprises 228 estancias, of which the following are the principal:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Parravicini, ...	17	Agüero & Co.,	3
Anchorena,	10	Juarez,	1
Juan Diaz,	$3\frac{1}{2}$	White,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Escribano,	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Nadal,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Bello,	2	Amaral,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Zapiola,	1	Roldan,	$\frac{1}{2}$
S. Palomeque,	1	Pinero,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Peredo,	$\frac{2}{3}$	Cordoba,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Almiron,	3	Luro,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Madariaga,	2	Palma,	$\frac{1}{2}$
R. Palomeque,	$1\frac{1}{2}$		

The partido is bounded on the north by the new partido of Castelli, which intervenes between Dolores and the Rio Salado, on the west by Vecino, on the south by Monsalvo, and on the east by Anchorena's lands of the Tordillo, which reach down to the sea-board. There are numerous lagoons and water courses; and S.E. of the town of Dolores is the forest of Tordillo, which covers a superficies of nearly ten square leagues. The Cañada del Vecino traverses the partido from east to west. The principal lakes are the Tordillo, Las Cruces, Hinojal, Vecino, Salomon, Los Rengos, and Durazno. The Parravicini estancias extend southwards from the municipal radius of Dolores to the borders of Monsalvo, being traversed for the entire length by the highroad to El Moro; in many parts the land is low and marshy, especially in the vicinity of the Cañada del Vecino. The Anchorena estates occupy the whole country eastward of Dolores down to the sea, about six leagues in a straight line; they are mostly in the partido of Tordillo, and cover more than thirty square leagues; the northern boundary being the Arroyo de Vivoras, while southward they stretch along the coast towards the lands of Gilmour and Gibson at the Tuyú.

The estancias of Diaz and C. White lie between the forest of Tordillo and valley of the Vecino; and almost in the same neighborhood are the lands of Bello, Escribano, Nadal, Palomeque and Zapiola. Near the Laguna Limpia, close to the town, is the estancia of Pedro Juarez, and westward is that of Agüero & Co., near the Falcon lagoon. North of Dolores we meet the lands of Madariaga, Almiron, Piñero, Cordoba and Luro; and the smaller properties of Roldan and Amaral bound the municipal chacras westward. The official lists show only three English proprietors, Yates, Langrave and White—but the total English population numbers nearly 200. The land is valued at \$350,000 per square league: total valuation \$16,000,000, against \$13,000,000 in 1861. Stock returns—61,365 cows, 19,588 horses, 1,902 fine sheep, 255,180 mestiza sheep, 99,870 creole sheep, and 2,262 swine; being an average of 900 cows, 300 horses, and 5,500 sheep to the square league. Population—6,090 Argentines, 478 French, 367 Italians, 317 Spaniards, 31 Germans, 12 English, 75 Indians, 96 various; total 7,466. There are 54 houses and 884 ranchos, including 87 pulperias. There are 14 alcaldes, 56 tenientes, 10 police, and 653 National Guards. Agriculture is making some progress; there are 214 chacras, covering more than 20,000 acres.

Dolores has probably progressed as rapidly as any other town in the province. In 1854 there were only two diligences monthly plying with Buenos Ayres: according to a recent calculation there are forty diligences, carrying 800 passengers to and fro monthly. The town has a tasteful and busy look, with a fine pyramid in the plaza, bearing a bust of Castelli, who made the first fruitless revolution against the tyrant Rosas: the pyramid is surrounded by rows of iron seats. The new church erected by Padre Errausquin and the Municipality, at an outlay of \$1,000,000 (£8,000) has 96 pillars supporting the nave and four porticos 'a cuatro vientos.' The adjoining block has been purchased for the construction of a Recoba, to contain the schools and the Juzgado. The boys' school is conducted by Mr. Abrines, a native of Gibraltar, who is highly spoken of: it counts 120 boys; the girls' school has about half that number. There is a small theatre at present open, a bank under Señor Brummel, and a service of 'serenos' to protect the town by night.

The population of the 'city,' as it is officially styled, is put down at 4,800 souls, and it is the great emporium of trade in the southern districts. There was originally an intention to prolong the Southern Railway from Chascomus to Dolores, but this now seems doubtful, and there is a counter-project to run a line from Altamirano station to Ranchos, then crossing the Rio Salado near Paso de Ponce, and striking into the heart of the southern camps in

the direction of Azul. At present the diligences run daily from Chascomus to Dolores, although the Salado at times offers great difficulties both to the passengers and goods traffic. Dolores has a Criminal Tribunal with jurisdiction over all the southern districts: also a branch of the Provincial Bank for this and all the neighboring partidos.

Dolores is 17 leagues S.S.E. of Chascomus, and 8 leagues S. of the passes called Postrera and Villar, on the Rio Salado: it is about 7 W. of the seaboard, 4 N. of the Cañada del Vecino, 12 W.N.W. of Tuyú, 2 W. of the forest of Tordillo, 27 N.N.W. of Mar Chiquita, 32 N.E. of Tandil, and 38 E.N.E. of Azul.

Justice of Peace, Don Lino Lagos; Postmaster, Don Norberto Fresco: Municipality, six members: municipal revenue, \$444.000. *Standard* agency at the diligence office.

There is no Irish pastor as yet named for this partido, the district belongs to the clergyman in Chascomus. This partido is fully capable of maintaining double the stock at present on it, but the estancieros ask such high rents for their lands that immense districts are merely occupied by rodeos of horned cattle and mares.

S.S. "City of Brasses"

CHAP. IX.

SOUTH COAST PARTIDOS.

QUILMES TO MAR CHIQUITA.

Quilmes.

SITUATE three leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of twenty-five square leagues, nearly half of which is under tillage, and the rest is taken up by twenty-one estancias.

In the suburban districts of Buenos Ayres there is none more picturesque or better worth visiting than Quilmes. The traveller who makes an excursion thither is agreeably surprised at the valuable establishments, agricultural progress, and woodland scenery of the former settlement of the Quilmes Indians.

The road from Barracas passes through four leagues of most unpromising country, until we reach the quinta lately belonging to Señor Saavedra, a Chilean resident, where the plantations begin, and a short distance further is the chaera of the Alamos. The proprietor, Mr. Latham, is well known for his splendid breed of English and mestizo horses: equally remarkable is his model farm, which is kept in beautiful order and furnished with the most improved English implements of agriculture. The cabaña of Messrs. Latham & Benavente possesses the finest breed of Rambouillet sheep in this Continent.

Bella Vista, the property of Mr. John Clarke, stands on a rising ground, and from the mirador is obtained a charming view, which takes in the Lomas de Zamora, the city, and the waters of La Plata. The peach mount

extends for more than half a league, but its chief value is the timber, not the fruit. The hotel here is very convenient for travellers, and comprises also a first-rate drapery, grocery, and tailor's shop. Ten minutes' ride brings us to the hospitable mansion of Mr. Clarke, which is built and fitted up with the comfortable elegance of a country-seat in England. Mr. Clarke is among the oldest residents in this neighborhood, and has some interesting stories about former times. Quilmes takes its name from a tribe of Indians of the Upper Provinces, who waged implacable though unsuccessful war to the Spanish settlers and were brought hither in captivity to form a 'Reduction,' about the middle of the last century. The race gradually died out and now the last descendant of the Quilmes lives on a plot of ground near the village, surrounded by the genius of foreign industry and civilization. After the decay of this tribe, in 1824, its lands were divided by Government into 'sitios' of 500 yards by 300, and trees and agriculture soon sprang up. Mr. Clarke remembers when the place was perfectly bare, and points with pride to the montes and green lanes planted by him, some with his own hand, which have so wonderfully converted the aspect of the neighborhood. Rosas injured the chacras much by making them winter-quarters for his cavalry, but at present there is no part of the Argentine Republic so closely bordering on the condition of English farms. The meadows of Mr. Clarke's farm extend down to the banks of the River Plate, and are fringed with hedges as at home. No fewer than 80 bullocks are constantly employed in carting hay and alfalfa, but the wretched state of the road to town is a great impediment to traffic.

The region of chacras, neatly fenced and cultivated, extends far beyond Quilmes, to the river of Conchitas, and if the traveller crosses to the other side, he will find the journey well repaid by a visit to Santo Domingo, the estancia of Mr. John Davidson, close to which also is the neat farm-house of Mr. Peter Davidson.

Santo Domingo originally belonged to the Dominican friars, from whose hands it passed into those of the Pintos family, and the latter sold it to its present owner. The plantations are very fine, and the estancia house and out-offices built by Mr. Davidson are in the best English style. In the garden are some ombú trees of great age and size, and here on the last day of every year a great gathering of Scotch and English neighbors takes place to welcome in the New Year with rejoicing and festivities. Mr. Davidson also holds races twice a year on his estancia. He is most hospitable to visitors, and has been one of the principal benefactors to the Scotch church, situate between this place and San Vicente, which is attended by the Rev. Mr. Gebbie and a large Presbyterian congregation. The estancia of Don

Leonardo Pereyra probably has not its equal in this province in point of arrangement, a spacious house and beautiful garden, large galpones of brick mortar, extensive alfalfares, and all the requisites for an extensive breeding establishment for the best English «crias» of cattle, sheep, and horses. It would afford a treat to any lover of fine animals to see his stock: any one of his breeds are worth the gallop to see; but he has not one but many: the Durham, a short-horned cattle; the Hereford cattle, the Cleveland bay, a carriage horse breed: the Southdown, the Shropshire-down, the Leicester sheep, &c. Mr. Pereyra is one of the wealthiest men in the River Plate.

The department of Quilmes, though having a comparatively small quantity of sheep or cattle reared in it, is second to none in the variety and quality of the superior breeds. Besides those of Don Leonardo Peyrera, a fine herd of short-horned cattle is to be found at Mr. Davidson's estancia; the thorough-bred English horse and his progeny, Durham bull and herd of cows, at Mr. Latham's chaera; and last, but not least, the finest flocks of Rambouillet pure and mestiza sheep in the country, at the ram-breeding establishment of Don Manuel Benavente and Mr. Latham. The flocks of mestiza (Rambouillet) ewes of these two gentlemen averaged $9\frac{1}{4}$ lb per fleece this last spring shearing, and commanded the highest price of the market during the past two seasons, viz.: \$120 to \$125 per arroba; ten months old pure ram lambs, 18 lb and $18\frac{1}{2}$ lb wool; and pure Rambouillet rams of two years and upwards averaging $9\frac{1}{2}$ arrobas weight. There is no native gentleman in the country to whom greater credit is due than to Don Manuel Benavente, whose admirable management and exceeding great care and attention has enabled him to take the position of the most successful breeder of the Rambouillet sheep in Buenos Ayres.

The property returns show the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Leonardo Pereyra,	4	Sanchez, family,	$\frac{1}{4}$
John Davidson,	2	Islas,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Geo. Bell,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Baranda,	1
Poncé Leon,	$1\frac{1}{3}$	Young,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Arrascaeta,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Boyd,	$\frac{1}{4}$
D. Hudson,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Arroyo,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sra. Cruz,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Mrs. Watson,	$\frac{1}{4}$
J. Brown,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Godoy, family,	$\frac{1}{4}$
T. Robson,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Negrete,	$\frac{1}{4}$
W. Yates,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Islas,	$\frac{1}{4}$
F. Black,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Diaz,	1

The land is exceedingly valuable, and estimated from \$500,000 up to

\$2,000,000 per square league. Our countrymen own more than half the partido, and their properties, including the chacra farms, are some of the finest in the country. George Bell's lands are partly in this partido, but principally in that of Ensenada. John Davidson's lie along the Conchitas river, down to its mouth on the sea-board. Robson's and Brown's are inland, between the Scotch chapel and the Southern Railway, and Mrs. Yates is near the coast. The fine estancia of Leonardo Pereyra occupies almost the whole coast-line from the Conchitas river to the borders of Ensenada: it is watered, moreover, by the Arroyo del Pato, and traversed for its whole length by the telegraph wires connecting Punta Lara with Buenos Ayres. There are 473 chacras, covering 60,000 acres; the principal are—

Name.	Cuadras.	Name.	Cuadras.
John Clark,	665	Cabrera,	55
Garay, family,	272	Sra. Hornos,	55
Izaguirre,	535	Molino,	80
Wilfred Latham,	200	Arze, family,	59
Villavicencio,	55	Correa,	22
Juan N. Fernandez,	110	Durañona,	22
Lavalle,	55	Forteti,	37
Perez, family,	64	Gonsalez,	34
Basigalap,	45	Leine,	35
Mrs. M. Clark,	12	Lerdon,	22
Escobar,	80	Lagarde,	45
A. Fernandez,	34	José Montes,	45
Herrera,	22	Quevedo,	34
Segovia,	176	M. Saavedra,	22
Berasategui,	90	Villaneuva,	22
Mrs. Barton,	73	Henry Thompson,	22
Cabral,	135	R. Maciel,	22
Gutierrez, family,	104	N. Martinez,	34
Llanes,	90	M. Mosqueira,	22
Parejas,	50	C. Seanz Valiente,	34
Baranda,	26	Senillosa,	34
Diaz,	25	C. Drayer,	112
Faria,	22	Ramos,	16
Giraldes,	22	Miralles, family,	34
Carmen,	12	Otamendi,	45
M. Barragan,	90	Quineli,	34
M. Benavente,	90	Thos. Sandes,	34
V. Baragan,	90	Tobal,	22
Bernal,	67	B. Ricart,	43

These chacras, as already stated, are in the highest state of cultivation, being mostly in the hands of Basques and Italians; there is also a sprinkling of emigrants from the Canary Islands.

The returns of stock for the partido are—12,896 cows, 7,729 horses, 2,670 fine sheep, 505,996 mestiza sheep, and 788 swine; being an average of 800 cows, 500 horses, and 30,000 sheep per square league. Population, 4089 Argentines, 354 Italians, 346 Spaniards, 264 French, 98 English, 82 Germans, 53 various: total 5,286. There are 438 houses and 582 ranchos, including 59 pulperias. There are 5 alcaldes, 40 tenientes and 10 police.

The town of Quilmes is picturesquely situated on a high ground overlooking the River Plate, with the roadstead and city of Buenos Ayres in the distance. The environs and quintas are very pretty, and the number of suburban residences will be much increased as soon as the Boca and Ensenada Railway be prolonged this far. The quintas of Bilbao, Montes de Oca, Carman, and other families from the city are very neat and elegant. The population numbers about 2,500 souls, and there are thirty-six rateable houses, the best being those of Amocdo, Arriola, Baranda, Costa, Casares, John Clark, Gonzalez, Hasperú, Lerdou, Martinez, Rodriguez, Romagosa, and Sanchez, valued from \$50,000 upwards. The town boasts a fine church and state-school, and eleven good shops: among the latter are those of Gonzalez, Bros., Labourt, Garcia, Sonyth, Iturralde and Martin Puig. There are two hotels, those of Manuel Joval and Felix Riso, both in the plaza; besides several billiard-rooms. There are two bakeries, belonging to Bernard Lerdou and Ramond Raymundo. There are three blacksmiths, two of whom are in Calle Comercio, and the third, Don Diego Asperu, lives near the plaza. Dr. Wilde has a good medical practice, and the apothecary is Señor Matienzo, who lives in Calle Municipal. There is a hair-dresser's shop in the plaza. In fine weather three diligences ply to and from the city, viz: those of Joval, Riso, and Cordoba; but in wet seasons all communication is suspended, owing to the dreadful state of the roads. The coaches from town may be taken either at the Calle Potosi, or at the confectionary in South Barracas. From Quilmes to the coast there is a road called Calle Municipal, and passengers for Las Lomas will find a bridge over the Arroyo de Gaete near the Atalaya. A new cemetery has been laid out near the farm of Doña Isabel de Escobar. The trade of Quilmes is very limited, owing to the bad state of the roads; and there is little opening for a new-comer, either as «chaerero» or in any other occupation. Among the foreign settlers not already mentioned are Wheatly, Westhoven, Graham, Roche, Bernard, and some others. The state-schools are attended by fifty boys and seventy-one girls.

Quilmes is situate $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues E. of Lomas de Zamora, $6\frac{1}{2}$ N.W. of Ensenada, 7 N.N.E. of San Vicente, and 12 N.E. of Cañuelas. The partido is bounded on the N.E. by the River Plate, on the N.W. by Barracas, on the W. by the Lomas de Zamora, and on the S. and S.E. by Ensenada.

Justice of Peace, Don Manuel Benavente; Curate, Rev. Pablo M. Pardo; Postmaster, Don Pedro Riso; *Standard* agent, Mr. James Bernard; Municipality, five members; Municipal revenue, \$500,000.

Ensenada.

Situate ten leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of fifty square leagues, and comprises seventy-five estancias, of which the following are the principal :—

Name.	S Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Melchor Piñero,	$2\frac{1}{4}$	Garcia,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Irasla,	$2\frac{1}{4}$	Vilasin,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Arana, family,	$2\frac{3}{4}$	Egeni,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Videla,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Sra. Gómez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Huerta, family,	$1\frac{1}{4}$	F. Ponce,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Martinez,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Macedos,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Sánchez,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Thos. Mahon,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Larosa,	$\frac{1}{2}$	C. Piñero,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Sueldo,	$\frac{1}{8}$	E Rodriguez,	1
Demaria,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Geo. Bell,	6
Mrs. Taylor,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Ponce Leon,	2
Dibur,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Oldendorff,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
H. Rummell,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Villoldo,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Suasnaval, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Llanos,	$\frac{3}{4}$
R Oliden,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Bilcher,	$\frac{1}{2}$
G. Harch,	$\frac{3}{8}$	Selamendi,	$\frac{1}{8}$
A. Chaves,	2	J. G. Taylor,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Wm. Cooper,	1	Torres,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Merlo, family,	$3\frac{1}{4}$	H. Gilbert,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Gomez,	1	Torrena,	$\frac{1}{2}$
F. Rodriguez,	1	C. Cos,	$\frac{1}{8}$
O. Piñero,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Garraghan,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Godoy,	$\frac{1}{2}$		

This partido extends along the coast for more than six leagues, from the borders of Quilmes to those of Magdalena, and its depth inland is about eight leagues till reaching the partido of San Vicente. The land along the coast is mostly low and marshy, but the district is in general considered well adapted for sheep. It is watered by the Arroyos Sauce, Pescado, Santiago, Gato, Rodriguez, Palomas, and Pereyra. The boundaries are N.E. the River Plate, N.W. Quilmes, S.W. San Vicente, and S.E. Magdalena. Some of the best estancias belong to foreigners, and the partido is so thickly settled that there is no room for new-comers.

One of the finest establishments in South America is the Oldendorff estancia, and this claims a lengthened notice in our pages. The Estancia Santa Maria was established by Ernest Oldendorff in the year 1861. It is about one league from the Donselaar railway station, and eleven leagues from town. The estancia is fenced in with wire on all sides, and contains two square leagues of prime pasture land. The Chascomus road bisects the estancia. The estancia house is situated about the centre of the land, and has a fine carriage-road, nearly three-quarters of a league long, leading from the entrance-gate. The approach to the house reminds one of a well-laid-out English farm. Passing the first puesto, immense fields of wheat and barley stretch out as far as the eye can see, then come alfalfa fields, and as we near the house, we hear the hum of the powerful threshing-machine, hard at work in the vicinity of some large stacks of wheat. Further on a chaff-cutting machine, preparing fodder for the cattle; close to, a neat brick granary, where the peons deposit the wheat. Flocks incorralled on all sides, cared by German shepherds, and long four-wheeled farm-waggons passing to and fro.

There are six flocks kept at the estancia—First flock, breeding ewes, thoroughbred Negrettis; second flock, breeding ewes, thoroughbred Negrettis, yearlings; third flock, breeding ewes, thoroughbred ram flock; fourth flock, breeding ewes, Negrettis, Rambouillets, A No. 1; fifth flock, breeding ewes, Negrettis, Rambouillets, A No. 2; sixth flock, breeding ewes, Negretti-Rambouillet rams.

Each flock has its shepherd and dog, and is let out into the camp every day. All the shepherds on the estancia care the flocks on foot. In one of the galpons are shown the three stud Rambouillet rams imported by Mr. Oldendorff; they are of immense size; their fleeces average 21½ each. In another galpon the stud Negrettis, twenty in number, fleeces from twenty-one to twenty-five pounds each. There are fourteen sheep puestos on the estancia. The flocks are some of the evenest and best in the Plate, and the fleeces average eight pounds in the grease; what most attracts notice is

the utter absence of scab. This proves the truth of Mr. Oldendorff's assertion that scab in sheep owes its existence to sheer neglect.

The history of this splendid sheep-farm is possibly the very best proof that wool-growing in the River Plate, under proper management, is still a good paying business. Mr. Oldendorff, who is a German farmer by profession, having taken out his diploma in the Agricultural State College in Wurtemberg, and having subsequently managed some of the largest farms and stock-breeding establishments in South Germany, founded his place here on the strictest and most approved German agricultural principles. He began by importing five Negretti ewes and his stud rams; subsequently he imported eighty more Negretti ewes, and their progeny is seen in the various classified flocks which are cared at the estancia. Nothing that science can afford, that experience can supply, is wanting on this model farm. Mr. Oldendorff's wool last year attracted such attention in Antwerp that it was marked as exceptional, and could not be classified. The method adopted by Mr. Oldendorff in his books is exclusively German—each animal is classified, the entries made can be read only by the proprietor, who holds the German key, perhaps the only one in South America. In 1867 Mr. Oldendorff gave his first ram auction; the result astonished all the ram breeders in the Plate, some of the pure thoroughbreds fetching as high as \$10,200, and averaging all round \$3,535 per head, the highest ever obtained in Buenos Ayres. All the young rams which Mr. Oldendorff disliked offering at auction, he sold on the estancia at private sale. Seven of the flocks at the puestos are bred with pure thoroughbreds; the lambs are taken from the mothers at four and a-half months, and the young rams are kept apart until two and a-half years old. The wool is baled on the estancia; and close to one of the galpons is the dipping apparatus, made of brick and Roman cement, six yards long, five feet wide, and five feet deep; here eight men can with ease dip 1800 sheep per day.

Looking south from the estancia-house, we see the artificial lake for the washing of the flocks; here the flock is made to swim through, kept out all night, and next day driven over a plank road that runs through the lake, where the men stand on either side and wash the sheep. Nine men can wash about 1,200 sheep per day. The flocks come home in the evening, German fashion—shepherd, with his staff and dog, first. But if the sheep-breeding system carried on at the establishment attracts notice, what shall we say of the tillage department? Who in Buenos Ayres knows that but a few hours' gallop from town there is a German estancia where thirty ploughs are kept constantly going, sixty horses ever in harness tilling the soil, and vast fields of wheat containing 320 acres in one tract? The head farm

contains six fields of forty squares each; the second farm nine fields, twenty-one squares each. On each farm there is a regular rotation of crops, thus the wheat crop on the head farm is a month in advance of that of the second farm. The principal crops are wheat, barley, rye, and Irish horse beans. The second farm is all under wheat. On the head farm there are three fields 120 squares, 480 acres under wheat. All the work on the place is done with the best implements and machinery; the Belgian plough has given great satisfaction. There are fifteen at work on the farms; they are very cheap, costing \$190 *m/c* in Germany, and light to work.

The thrashing machine, with shaft, is worked by three horses. As regards the wheat-growing business, we have obtained the following statistics:—Average crop of one square, 20 fanegas; cost to raise and deliver in Buenos Ayres, \$52 per fanega, or \$1,040 per square; this includes every charge. Average price of wheat, \$200 per fanega, that is \$4,000 per square, close on 300 per cent.

The crop on the estancia last year, on thirty-eight squares, amounted to 1,000 fanegas, sold from \$250 to \$270 per fanega. This year's average crop is estimated at 2,500 fanegas. Besides the price realised for the wheat the straw is used for feeding cattle, sheep, and horses. The ground is ploughed up in spring to let the summer sun act on the new earth. The land is again ploughed in April, then subsoiled, then harrowed by Scotch iron harrows, then rolled, and the crops sown in winter. The sowing is done by a broad castor, worked by one horse and two men each, finishing ten squares per day. The wheat is covered by a machine-grubber; two horses and a man for about one and a-half squares per day. The reaping is done by Collin's reaping machines. There are nine of these machines on the place: they reap about two squares each per day. The crops are carted home in large farm waggons, brought from Germany; there are seven on the estancia. The wheat is then made into stacks close to the granary, which is a neat building, with boarded floors, and the walls lined with zinc; but the granary is now too small, and in the galpon now building, ninety by seventeen, there will be a loft able to hold 4,000 fanegas of wheat. The thrashing-machine cleans about seventy-five bushels per day. The chaff is cut by machinery for fodder. The beans, barley, and rye, are for the use of the farm, and the wheat is sent by rail in sacks; there are no buyers in the camp. Most of the seed wheat is from Germany; it is steeped in blue stone the night before sowing to avoid polilla, half pound to the bushel.

The advantages accruing from fencing are no longer questionable, and although the expense is serious, the gains are more than commensurate. The Oldendorff farm contains two square leagues of land, upon which there

are fourteen *puestos*, exclusive of the estancia-house, with its numerous flocks. During the last seven years there have been frequent droughts, &c., and immense loss to sheep and cattle farmers; Mr. Oldendorff, however, never lost in the least, and his camps are ever clothed with the best grasses. The fence consists of four wires, *Ñandubay* posts, and a small ditch. There are 560 quintals of wire in the entire fence, which cost, placed on the land, \$115 per quintal; 8,500 *Ñandubay* posts, which were brought down from La Paz, and cost, placed on the land, \$6 each, which are now worth at least \$10 out there; the ditching and wiring, and putting down the posts, cost eighteen reales per yard.

The Oldendorff estancia is surrounded by no less than forty-six different neighbors, whose cattle, sheep, and mares all fed upon the land previous to the fencing. The appearance of the farm in times of drought is something extraordinary—a sort of oasis in the dusty burnt-up plains—grass all over the land knee-deep, and all the stock in the very best condition. Baron Von Ersen, a Wurtemberg cavalry officer, of great experience, has exclusive charge of the horse department. *Mameluke*, a splendid sire, stands seventeen hands high, is seventeen years old, as tame as possible either as a saddle or a carriage horse. This magnificent horse comes from the stud of the King of Wurtemberg; he was fourteen years in the King's stables, and is of the celebrated *Trakenen* breed, half Arabic, and only held in Europe by the Kings of Wurtemberg and Prussia. On a recent occasion the King of Prussia sent to the Emperor of the French four pure blood *Trakenen* mares. The breed is greatly prized in Europe and is very scarce. Next comes *Black*, only five years old, a bigger, higher, and far more powerful-looking animal than *Mameluke*, of the same breed and stud, taken from the King's stables at two years old, and now three years in this country. There are four pure blood mares of the same breed, all tame, and, when not heavy in foal, worked in the plough. There is also Mr. Hopkins' celebrated American sire *Lindo*, of the *Hamiltonian* trotting breed, as yet very young, and exceedingly tame. Mr. Hopkins has also two American mares—*Belle* and *Bonne*—of the celebrated *Morgan* trotter breed. The Baron has a *puesto* where he keeps a select «*menada*» of about 120 picked mares, all the largest that he can obtain.

The sires are fed on barley and green alfalfa, maize being too strong. The buildings on the estancia have been designed by the proprietor, who has taken out his diploma in Wurtemberg for rural architecture. The estancia-house is on the style of a Swiss cottage, and is neat and commodious, containing eleven rooms. The *puestos* are all brick, some with the German felt roof, which is cheap, and has given great satisfaction. To the left of

the estancia-house are the carpenters' shop, the machine depot, the fire engine room, the stables for thirty plough horses; then comes a large galpon, eighty by eighteen, one end of which is cut off for the stables for the thoroughbreds.

Next to this is the shearing galpon, used for the Negretti ewes, sixty by sixteen; and opposite this is the great new galpon, seventy by twenty-two, with a loft capable of storing 4,000 fanegas wheat, the underneath part for rearing rams. Next is the granary which is now too small for the establishment; then the German shepherd's house, and last the majordomo's cottage, a neat little building. To the right of the estancia other stables for thirty plough horses, apartments for the agricultural laborers, large «pileta» for watering the great kitchen garden, where every species of vegetable for the use of the peons and master is reared. In fine, it would be hard to find in the River Plate so extensive, well managed, and orderly an establishment. At sundown the ploughmen, mounted on the plough horses, form a sort of cavalcade, and with the noise of the harness and chains, appear to the stranger as a company of artillery.

We pass to the refectory of the peons—clean tables, dishes, and hands; everything in the most matchless order. The horses are stabled, the men wash their hands, and all repair to their evening meal. Order reigns supreme. In the evening, the various «capatazes» come to the head house, report the work of the day, the number of horses, men, and implements employed, and receive instructions for the morrow. President Sarmiento, in a recent visit to the place, expressed himself equally pleased and astonished at everything that he saw. It has been suggested to H.E. that it might be made a first-class model farm for the Republic.

Along the coast-line we meet with the large estancias of Bell, Iraola, and Huertas. Near the Punta Lara, a low promontory which stretches out eastward, and is almost bare of vegetation, is the estancia of Mr. Bell: the house is tile-roofed and antique, apparently only a few feet above the level of the river, yet never inundated even in the highest tides. The submarine cable is laid from Punta Lara to Colonia, and the overland telegraph wires pass through Bell's lands en route for the city. Not far off is the Estancia Iraola, a large white building, with some high ground or lomas running almost parallel. The country looks bleak and thinly settled, but has fine pastures, and herds of horned cattle. Don Melchor Piñero's property is on the banks of the Sanborombon, and the owner expended a large sum in building a grand residence which is now falling to decay. South of Point Santiago we find the estancias of Arana, Videla, and Taylor, intersected by the Arroyo del Sauce; and further west are the lands of Cooper, Rummell,

and Chaves. The estancia of Ponce de Leon is on the Arroyo del Gato. The peninsula or promontory of Point Santiago is famous for producing excellent peaches. The land in this partido is uniformly valued at \$350,000 per square league. Total valuation \$15,000,000, against \$8,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$60,000. Stock returns—48,530 cows, 28,441 horses, 3,487 fine sheep, 899,260 mestiza sheep, 3,056 creole sheep; being an average of 1,000 cows, 600 horses, and 18,000 sheep per square league. Population—2,400 Argentines, 223 English, 194 French, 125 Italians, 122 Spaniards, 64 Germans, 12 various: total 3,140. The Irish congregation numbers about 500, and is under the charge of Rev. Mr. Mullady, whose district also includes Magdalena. There are in the partido 78 houses and 826 ranchos, including 27 pulperias. There are 4 alcaldes, 22 tenientes, 12 police, and 371 National Guards. Agriculture is rather backward, there being only 95 small chacras.

The camps of this partido are thickly settled with English, Irish, and German sheepfarmers.

Ensenada de Barragan, as the port is called, was used by the early Spaniards, and even up to fifty years ago, as the port of Buenos Ayres. It affords safe anchorage for vessels, but the great difficulty is the bar at the entrance. Nevertheless, in recent years we have seen vessels of a 1,000 tons come in here, to take consignments of horses for the East Indies and other places. It is the only natural port that the Province of Buenos Ayres can boast of, and the depth of water varies from 18 to 24 feet. Mr. Wheelwright designs the old battery of the Spaniards as the site for his railway terminus. A church and state school are being constructed in the vicinity. At present Ensenada is only used at rare intervals, as a quarantine ground for vessels. Mr. Wheelwright's project is to make a port here, with wharves, warehouses, &c., connecting the same by railway with the city. So far back as 1823 this project occurred to the eminent statesman Rivadavia, who commissioned Mr. James Bevens, C.E., to report on the subject, which he did, as follows:—"The difficulties of the present harbor of Ensenada are several: in the first place the bar, which is across the entrance, makes it necessary for large ships to take advantage of high tide to get in or out, and it so happens that a wind which is favorable to the entrance of a ship into this harbor is a wind which produces low water, and a wind which is favorable for a ship to sail out of the river is contrary to its leaving the harbor. This harbor is one made by nature, and is calculated to hold as great a number of as large ships as can navigate the River Plate. My opinion is that by stopping up all the channels across the Monte Santiago, the effect will be to enable ships to enter or depart with

any wind, and to wash away the present bar across the entrance; my reasons are as follow: a wind which occasions a low tide blows directly into the mouth of the harbor, and tends to prevent the stream of the tide from running out of the same. The consequence is that the tide finds its way out of the harbor through the various channels across the Monte Santiago, keeping the water with very little motion over the bar; and, on the contrary, the wind which occasions a high tide blows directly on the mouth of the harbor, and thereby checking the current of the tide from running over the bar. The tide, therefore, finds its way in by the channels across the Monte. Now, by stopping up all the communications across the Monte, all the current of the tide and land water will be obliged to run over the bar, the increased activity of which will considerably reduce the bar.» Mr. Wheelwright's remarks on the subject are no less interesting—«The port of Ensenada is thirty-six miles from Buenos Ayres; the outer anchorage for large ships is protected from the south-east and all dangerous winds, while the inner harbor has a bar which ships of 14 or even 15 feet at full tides may pass, while it is susceptible of being considerably increased in depth by dredging. Within, it forms a perfect basin, which by the same means may be made to accommodate a 1,000 vessels, and eventually those of the largest size, perfectly protected from the winds and seas. The present deep water accommodation is ample for the construction of several miles of piers which ships may be able to approach with as much facility and security as in the most favored port of Europe, and when the railroad is constructed the trains will pass along these piers, be placed in immediate contact with the ships, and discharge and load direct to and from the cars. The Spanish surveys of Ensenada give a very clear idea of the port, and these surveys have more recently been confirmed by Messrs. Antonio Toll, Francisco Segui, and Colonel Murature, commissioned by Government to survey that port, and whose report bears ample testimony of the value and importance of Ensenada as the natural port of Buenos Ayres, and as capable of accommodating all its foreign commerce. We have also the official proceedings of H.E. Señor Rivadavia, who, during his administration, ordered a survey to be made by a distinguished hydraulic engineer, who came from England by his express order to survey Ensenada, and whose report recommended a canal to be cut, to connect it with the city: certainly no higher testimony can be needed. In 1863 I instructed John Coghlan, Esq., to survey Ensenada, and his report fully sustains the foregoing testimony. In 1822 I had the good fortune to visit Ensenada on two occasions, once in a ship with a draught of 14 feet of water, and I made up my mind at that time that it was to become the port of Buenos Ayres. After the lapse of forty-one

years, in 1863 I visited Ensenada, when all my former convictions were confirmed. On my return to England I caused a comparative map to be published of Ensenada and the Clyde. I remember navigating the Clyde in 1837, in steamers of 400 or 500 tons, and meeting with constant obstructions from the shallowness of the river, while now it is the channel for ships of 4,000 or 5,000 tons, and all this from the effect of dredging, the same operation as will be needed in Ensenada to constitute it a port of much greater capacity than the Clyde, as is clearly shown in the comparative map referred to. The locality of Ensenada as an entrepot for Buenos Ayres is favorable: the land, it is true, is low, but susceptible of being drained; the swampy fringe lying between the firm ground and the proposed pier may be filled when necessary, while the creeks which intersect it will assist the drainage and accommodate the traffic of small crafts and boats.»

Formerly there was a town at Ensenada, of which some traces remain, as well as of some saladeros of the olden time. A road was begun from hence to town, but never finished: it is to be hoped that the saladeros of Barracas will be transferred hither, which will impart some life and activity to the neighborhood. Near the port there are a dozen houses, and the remains of an old battery. Near Ensenada are found large deposits of shells, which make excellent lime; and the adjacent country abounds in game. The state schools are attended by 25 boys and 26 girls. Ensenada is famous for a great naval victory by Admiral Brown.

Ensenada is eight leagues N.W. of Magdalena, 10 N. of the Sanborombon, $9\frac{1}{2}$ E.N.E of San Vicente, 8 E. of Glew Station, and 9 E.S.E. of Lomas de Zamora.

Justice of Peace, Don Ignacio Correa; Postmaster, Don Lisandro Nuñez. Municipality, four members. No *Standard* agency in the town.

Magdalena.

Situate nineteen leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 124 square leagues, and comprises 132 estancias.

The partido extends 22 leagues along the coast in a S.E. direction, from Arroyo del Pescado to the mouth of the Sanborombon: this coast line includes Point Atalaya, Point Indio, Point Memoria and Point Las Piedras: at Point Indio there is a light-ship for vessels to steer by, in coming up or down the River Plate. In many places the coast is covered with a thick plantation or «monte.»

The following are the principal estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Piñero, family,	20	Ojea,	$\frac{1}{4}$
C. Fernandez,	3	Maldonado,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Miguens, family,	5	Echeto,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Montes de Oca, family,	3	Figueroa,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Rebol, family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Suarez,	$\frac{1}{4}$
Mulchon,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Morales,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Villarino,	$1\frac{1}{8}$	S. Fink,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cajaraville,	1	Elizabe,	1
Ramos, family,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Butierres,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Bueno,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Preciado,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Molina, family,	1	Escribano,	6
Almiron,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Chaves,	2
Acevedo,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Canal, family,	2
Sampayo,	$\frac{1}{8}$	R. Newton,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Vasquez,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Salas,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Sanchez,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Machado, family,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Velazco,	$\frac{1}{2}$	Martinez,	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Bello,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Cepeda,	$\frac{2}{8}$
Alonzo,	$\frac{2}{8}$	Salomon,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Velasquez,	$\frac{1}{4}$	Villalba,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Maciel,	1	R. Simons,	$\frac{1}{8}$
Romero, family,	7	H. Thompson,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Moujan,	$1\frac{3}{4}$	Sra. Bavio,	2
J. S. Fernandez,	4	G. Carmans,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Otamendi,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	F. Achaval,	1
Lopez, family,	$3\frac{1}{2}$	V. Alba,	$\frac{1}{2}$
M. Ocampos,	1	P. Hamilton,	$1\frac{3}{4}$
Illescas, family,	3	Bolino,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Gomez, family,	$1\frac{2}{8}$	J. Malcom,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Arze, family,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Plowes,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Aguilera,	1	Larredia,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Villegas, family,	$\frac{1}{2}$		

The Piñero estancias lie along the coast from Point Las Piedras to the mouth of the Sanborombon, forming what is called the Rincon de Nuario, and taking in the «montes» of Luis Chico. Veloz, and Gutierrez. Another large property is that of Don Sisto Fernandez, also on the sea-boards it goes by the name of Espíritu Santo, and is traversed by an arroyo called Cañadon Grande. South of Point Indio are the estancias of John Malcom, R. Fernandez

and Escribano: that of Hamilton is more inland, and the Chaves estates are in the vicinity of Todos los Santos, an affluent of the Sanborombon. The lands of Newton, Rebol, and Achaval are watered by the Cañada Larga: while those of Moujan, Romero, Illescas, Cajaraville, and Montes de Oca, lie nearer the coast. The Arroyo Dulce traverses the lands of Martinez, Velazco, Miguens, and Lopez: the Arroyo del Puesto traverses the Otamendi estancia; both these fall into the Sanborombon. The camps of Magdalena are in general low, but well suited for sheep, and the prices realized for wool are higher than in any other partido. The land is valued at \$400,000 per square league; total valuation \$39,000,000, against \$15,000,000 in 1862. Rents are high, and land difficult to be obtained, but it is a favorite district of sheep-farming, and the English and Irish population exceeds 1,500. The Irish Catholics are visited by the Rev. Mr. Mullady. Communication with Buenos Ayres kept up by the Southern Railway, a diligence plying regularly between Magdalena and Ferrari Station, a distance of thirteen leagues.

The returns of stock are—86,000 cows, 91,800 horses, 570,000 mestiza sheep, 7,000 creole sheep, and 4,900 swine; being an average of 700 cows, 800 horses, and 5,000 sheep per square league. Population—12,813 Argentines, 1,483 Spaniards, 748 English, 197 Germans, 334 French, 242 Italians: total 15,807. There are 40 houses and 633 ranchos, including 73 pulperias. There are 6 alcaldes, 23 tenientes, 12 policemen, and 1,129 National Guards. Agriculture is in its infancy, there being only 36 chacras, covering altogether about 1,000 acres of tillage: the obstacle to agriculture is the want of proper roads or conveyance for produce.

The village of Magdalena consists of thirty-nine houses, six shops, a church, state-school, inn, brick-kiln, and several ranchos, with a population of 2,000 souls. The best houses are those of Arreaga, Gondra, Fejeiro, Miranda, Dés, and Abrega, valued from \$100,000 upwards. The state-school is attended by thirty boys and sixty-three girls. The village is distant a league from Point Atalaya, on the sea-board; it is situate on a lagoon which empties its waters by the Arroyo de Atalaya. Magdalena figures among the smaller ports for coasting traffic: the annual port returns show a total of 90 vessels, with an agregage tonnage of 2,290 tons.

The formation of the new partido of Rivadavia will deprive Magdalena of one-half its territory, reducing it to a coast-line of six and a half leagues by ten and a half leagues in depth to the Sanborombon river. Magdalena is distant five leagues N.W. of Point Indio, eight N. of the Sanborombon, sixteen E. of San Vicente, and eight and a half S.E. of Ensenada.

Justice of Peace, Don José Maria Miguens ; Curate, Rev. Angelo Garibaldi ; Postmaster, Don J. Ybarra ; *Standard* agent, Mr. Richard Simons ; Municipality, four members ; Municipal revenue, \$150,000 ; Contribucion tax, \$156,000,

Rivadavia.

This is a new partido recently formed in the Rincon de Nuario, between the southern districts of Magdalena and the River Sanborombon, covering a superficies of about sixty square leagues. It commences at the Miguens estancia, a little north of Point Indio, and follows the coast down to the mouth of the Sanborombon. It comprehends the estancias of Sisto Fernandez, Malcom, and Escribano, and the vast territory of the Piñeros. The lands of Chaves, Otamendi, Hamilton, Thompson, Molina, and others, are also included in this new demarcation. There are no returns of stock, population, &c., all these being included in the partido of Magdalena. The partido takes its name from the eminent statesman Bernardino Rivadavia (A.D. 1826), who introduced almost every measure of progress and improvement that Buenos Ayres can boast of: he died in exile, at Cadiz, but his remains were afterwards treated with extraordinary honors and are now lodged under a splendid mausoleum at the Retiro Cemetery.

The new partido is bounded on the N.W. and W. by Magdalena, on the S. by the Sanborombon, and on the E. and N.E. by the River Plate. There is no town or centre of population. The Rincon de Nuario is 12 leagues S.S.E. of Magdalena, and about the same distance E. of Chascomus.

Castelli.

Another new partido, situate on the sea-board, about 35 leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, was hitherto included as a part of Tordillo.

The partido has a coast line of ten leagues from the mouth of the Rio Salado to the Arroyo las Vivoras, and it extends inland about twelve leagues, to the borders of Dolores: the area is about seventy square leagues. There are numerous lagoons, some of which have excellent fish that come down from the Rio Salado by the Encadenadas lakes.

The principal estancias are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Saenz Valiente,	15	H. Martinez,	1
Martinez de Hoz,	16	Sotelo,	1
Islas, family,	4	Gomez,	$\frac{3}{4}$
Botet,	1	Tapia, family,	2
Agüero & Co.,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Gonsalez, family,	2
Mendoza,	1	Pereyra,	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Carreras,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Anchorena,	2
Villalba,	$\frac{1}{8}$	Almiron,	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Sacristi,	3	Reynoso,	1
M. Alzaga,	6	Reyes,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Alvarez,	$1\frac{1}{2}$		

The most important estancia is that of Messrs. Martinez de Hoz: it is called the Araza, and comprises various establishments, that go by the names of Mercedes, San Nicolas, Sebastopol, Esperanza, San José, Villanueva, &c. There are fifty-two puestos on the ground. The estancia-house is a fine comfortable residence, where one of the owners constantly lives: it has two large «galpones,» and extensive plantations and meadow farm. Several of the puestos have also good plantations. The first introduction of fine German sheep was in the time of old Mr. Martinez de Hoz (A.D. 1837), and since then the blood has been maintained by new importations of Negrettis, some of which have been personally chosen by one of the brothers Martinez out of the cabaña of Hoehltitz in Moravia. The stock of this estancia comprises 100,000 sheep, 15,000 cows, and 4,000 horses. The Negretti rams are pure blood, and their offspring are often sold by auction in Buenos Ayres. The various wools are classified on the estancia, baled and despatched direct for Europe, *via* Southern Railway to Buenos Ayres: the Chascomus terminus is twelve leagues from the estancia. The horned cattle are being much improved by introducing the Durham breed, and there is already a good sized «rodeo» of cross breeds. The attention paid to improving the breed of horses is no less noteworthy, and several fine stallions were brought from England in 1868. There are few Argentines more earnestly dedicated to the progress of their country than the Messrs. Martinez de Hoz, whose establishment in Cañuelas is also an honor to Buenos Ayres. Besides the Negretti rams they have imported the Lincoln and Leicestershire breeds, while their Durham cows and prize draught horses call equally for admiration. They obtained a medal for their wool at the Paris Exhibition of 1867. Don José Martinez de Hoz was one of the leading men who founded the Sociedad Rural Argentina, and his

name is identified with all the material interests of the country. The Araza estancia has a population of 250 souls, including several Irish and German families. On this estancia we find the lagoons of Campamento, Salada, Lastra, and Troucosa.

The Saenz Valiente estancia is at the Rincon de Lopez, between the Rio Salado and the sea-board, with a coast line eight leagues in length. There are some large montes, called Riojanos Grandes and Riojanos Chicos, besides that of San Antonio. There are two passes across the Rio Salado, communicating with the Miguens estancias in the partido of Biedma; they are called Las Piedras and El Rubio Tiburcio, the latter about four leagues up from the mouth of the Salado.

Don Martin Alzaga has a large estate at La Postrera, on the Rio Salado: the estancia-house is a fine building, surrounded with a natural plantation of tala trees. The lands are washed by the Salado for four leagues, and there are four passes across the river, viz.: Postrera, Conchas, Villar, and Callejon. It is proposed to put a bridge over the river, which will be a great gain to all the districts lying southward. In the far south of this estancia is a large lagoon called Lake Almiron.

The partido of Castelli, though comparatively little known, has an institution that other wealthier districts cannot boast of, namely, an orphan asylum. This is partly supported by Government, partly by the local revenues, and partly by the neighbors: it was founded by Don Federico Martinez de Hoz, the present Justice of Peace, and is under the dedication of Santa Isabel: there are 18 boys and 16 girls, who are cared and educated by a master and his wife.

Tordillo.

Situate about forty leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of forty-six square leagues, and comprises ten estancias. The estancias comprised in Tordillo are—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Anchorena,	25	Ramirez,	2
San Roman,	4	Arance,	3
Morete,	3	Alday,	1
Vallejo,	2½	Laferrière, family,	2½
Madrid,	1	Bocr,	1½
Joseph Butler,	6	John Hardy,	½
Wm. Thomson,	3	Michael Hessiger,	½
Peter Crinigan,	1	Thomas Dav's,	½

Previous to the new demarcation of 1864 this partido had an area of 100 square leagues, comprehending the territory which now forms the district of Castelli.

The partido lies along the coast, in a S.E. direction, for a distance of six leagues, from the Arroyo de Viveras to the Cañada de Ajó, all which territory belongs to Don Tomas Anchorena. Going inland we find about five leagues from the coast the forest of Tordillo, which extends S.E. from the town of Dolores for a length of six leagues. Most of the Anchorena property is low and marshy, but inland there is a gentle slope running due south. The estancias of Vallejo, Ramirez, and Morete are on the borders of the Tordillo wood: those of Laferrière, Madrid, and Boer are adjacent to the Cañada de Ajó, and near its mouth is a small holding belonging to one Fulcos. The land is valued at \$250,000 per square league. The returns of valuation, stock, population, &c., are according to the old division of the partidos. The total landed valuation in 1865 was \$12,000,000, against \$6,000,000 in 1862. Contribution tax, \$48,000. Stock returns—85,874 cows, 32,280 horses, 4,800 fine sheep, 150,830 mestiza sheep, 15,300 creole sheep, and 1,425 swine. There are 10 houses and 725 ranchos, including 58 pulperias. Population—1,048 Argentines, 22 Spaniards, 16 English, 21 Italians, 4 French, 3 Germans, 2 various, 1 Indian: total 1,117. The foreign settlers have, however, much increased since the above returns. There are 6 alcaldes, 12 tenientes, 9 police, and 410 National Guards. As yet there is no attempt to establish a town in this partido. Municipal revenue \$24,000. Justice of Peace, Don Mariano Mendiburo. The western part of this partido is only four leagues from the town of Dolores. Some land in this partido was sold by auction in the early part of 1869 at \$150,000 m^c per league.

Ajó.

Situate forty-six leagues S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 103 square leagues.

The partido has a coast-line of 20 leagues from the port of Tuyú, round Cape San Antonio, to the Montes Grandes beyond the Saladas lakes. The lands here have been settled in the last few years, and are now overstocked; several people have moved off with their flocks for the Sierra Baudrix and other places. The principal estancia is that of Gibson Bros., which goes by the name of Los Ingleses: it lies between the Arroyo de Ajó and San

Clemente on the sea-board. The town and port of Tuyú, otherwise called Lavallo, is on this ground: the town consists of a wooden church, three wooden houses and five or six pulperias. Gibson's estancia is often visited by strangers from England: the stock comprises over 60,000 sheep, and the establishment is conducted in a most orderly manner. The estate has a diversified superficies, the parts near the sea being low and marshy, while those inland have some thick montes, such as Zalazar, Palenque, and Cisneros: there are also some lagoons, and besides the Arroyo de Ajó are the smaller streams of San Clemente and Fijeras. This fine property covers over 50,000 acres English, and there is a good number of our countrymen here.

The partido comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Gibson Bros.,	8	Cordoba,	1
Leloir,	13	Luque,	$\frac{1}{2}$
Pardo,	16	W. Gilmour,	4
Cobo,	18	Fernandez,	2
Campos,	$4\frac{1}{2}$	Cabrera,	2
Falcon,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Rodriguez,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Girardo, family,	2	Alvarez,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Puertas,	$\frac{3}{4}$	Mendez,	1
Diaz, family,	1	George Bell,	3
Guzman,	$\frac{1}{2}$	F. Blanco,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Escobar,	$4\frac{1}{2}$	S. Bello,	2
Suarez, family,	7	Diaz, family,	1
Sanchez,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Acosta,	$\frac{1}{3}$
Gorosito,	1	George Palmer,	1
Ibarra,	1	Patrick Moran,	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Quinteros,	1		

Mr. Gilmour's estancia forms the Rincon de Ajó, between the cañada of the same name and the port of Tuyú. It is much smaller than the Gibson estate, but also worthy of a visit: Mr. Gilmour has another property at Cañada de Boreja, also in this partido. The Leloir territory lies along the ocean, at Cape San Antonio, about seven leagues in length by two in width: the surface is diversified by sand hills called Medanos del Plata, sundry lagoons and cañadas, and a dense thicket at the Rincon de Carnero. Messrs. Leloir have 60,000 sheep.

Six leagues inland is the large estancia of the Pardo family; it is a quadrangle, four leagues on each side: the camps are wild, woody, and thinly settled; southward is a hill called Espuela Verde, and there is a

lagoon called Dos Talitas. The adjoining estancias of Don Juan B. Peña were formerly in this partido, but they are not included in the new demarcation. Manuel José Cobo's lands stretch along the sea-board, from Cape San Antonio to Montes Grandes, and are bounded westward by the Saladas lakes; this property is about seven leagues long by two and a-half wide, and contains the lagoons of La Limpia, Barrancosa, and Mate, and the arroyos of Espiritos, and Cangrejal. The coast-line from Medano Blanco to Rincon de Hormito consists of sand hills. Most of the inner parts of the country are covered with woods. The land in this partido is valued at \$150,000 per square league. Total valuation \$17,000,000, against \$10,000,000 in 1861. Contribution tax \$68,000. Stock returns—164,970 cows, 34,669 horses, 920 fine sheep, 579,234 mestiza sheep, and 78,533 creole sheep; being an average of 1,600 cows, 350 horses, and 7,000 sheep per square league. There are 30 chacras, covering an aggregate of 1,500 acres. Population—2,498 Argentines, 97 English, 92 Italians, 66 French, 84 Spaniards, 30 Germans, 55 various: total 2,922. There are 132 houses and 668 ranchos, including 36 pulperias. There are 6 alcaldes, 30 tenientes, 12 police, and 346 National Guards.

The port of Tuyú or Lavallo, is good for coasting craft, being just two leagues up the Ajó river, from the ocean: the trade returns show seventy-four vessels arrived during the year, with an aggregate tonnage of 3,079 tons. It is very convenient for passenger and goods traffic from Buenos Ayres to this part of the south, as the journey overland is much more tedious and expensive. There are two graserias here doing a large business, and the neighbors speak very highly of the proprietors for honorable and straightforward dealing. At Messrs. Rubio's office all information as to sailing of vessels can be obtained.

Tuyú is 38 leagues S.S.E. of Ensenada, 17 S. of the mouth of the Rio Salado, 12 E.S.E. of Dolores, and 4 W. of the ocean at Cape San Antonio.

Justice of Peace, Don Gervacio Garcia.

Tuyú.

Situate about sixty leagues S.S.E. of Buenos Ayres, is a new and thinly settled district, nearly 100 square leagues in area. It extends along the Atlantic for twelve leagues, from Montes Grandes to Mar Chiquita, with an average width of eight leagues.

There are thirteen estancias, viz. :—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Martin Alzaga,	20	Subiaurre,	6
Anchorena,	20	Peña,	4
Aguirre,	12	Lastra,	6
Leloir,	12	Trelles Bros.,	3
Herrera,	5	Sigismundo,	2½
Serantes,	3	Gomez,	1
Villegas,	¾	Public lands,	2

These lands were formerly included in the department of Monsalvo, and the partido is not yet fully organised; there is neither Justice of Peace, municipality, township, curate, schools, nor church, and it is necessary not to confound this partido with the town of the same name in the district of Ajó. We have no returns of population, stock, or other statistics. The land is valued at \$250,000 per square league: total valuation, \$22,000,000; Contribucion tax, \$88,000.

Alzaga's estancia of Montes Grandes extends southward from the Saladas lagoons, along the sea-board as far as Monte Oliva on the borders of Leloir's estancia. The country is wild and thickly wooded; there are numerous lagoons, and the coast-line consists of sand-hills. Leloir's lands are bare and desolate; the Arroyo Chico flows through the southern part, which goes by the name of La Argentina. The rest of the coast-line is occupied by Anchorena's lands near the Laguna de Gongora; the Arroyo Gallinas also waters this part of the district. Messrs. Anchorena have another and larger estancia west of Montes Grandes: it lies between Isla Redonda and Laguna Mostazas. The estancias of Lastra, Subiaurre, and Peña, lie between Montes Grandes and the borders of Monsalvo. Madame Anchorena de Aguirre has a large property at the Tres Lomas; Trelles Brothers at Los Patos; the Herrera family at Avestruces: all these are in a southerly direction near Mar Chiquita. The estancias near Montes Grandes are famed for raising the best creole horses in the country, and Don Benjamin Subiaurre is said to have 500 tame horses on his land. Montes Grandes derives its name from the thick forest that covers this part of the country.

Mar Chiquita.

Situate about seventy-five leagues south of Buenos Ayres, is another large and newly-settled district, with an area of about 110 square leagues.

There are fourteen estancias, viz.:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Anchorena Bros.,	.... 30	Bernal Bros.,	.... 8
Andrea Anchorena,	.... 14	Lorenzo Torres,	.... 6
Señora Aguirre,	.... 9	Ramon Ezeyza,	.... 9
F. Gomez,	.... 7	José Ezeyza,	.... 5
C. Barbosa,	.... 3	V. Ezeyza,	.... 6
Peralta Ramos,	... 2	V. Sosa,	.... 1½
Señora Ybañez,	.... 1½	G. Barbosa,	.... 1

The coast-line extends for more than nine leagues along the Atlantic, and the partido goes inland an uniform depth of twelve leagues. The most remarkable feature is the Mar Chiquita, a gulf which has a narrow embouchure on the sea-board, and stretches inland in a N. direction for about five leagues; its greatest width does not exceed a league.

Anchorena's property of the Loma de Gongora contains about twenty-four square leagues: it is situate on the sea-coast, about 76 leagues from Buenos Ayres, 26 from the port of Tuyu, and 15 from the Laguna de los Padres; it is crossed on the eastern side by the Arroyo Chico, and on the southern by the Arroyo Grande, which two streams, after numerous windings, form a junction a short distance before reaching the Mar Chiquita. The land is generally flat, but owing to its being traversed by so many arroyos it is never flooded for a long time. This large estate belonged for many years to Messrs. Plowes & Co., and a portion of it is now rented to Dr. William Holder, whose majordomo is Mr. Thomas Reddy: a good business is done in fattening horned cattle for the Buenos Ayres market, and selling sheep to the «graserías» of Ajó.

Going southward we meet the lands of José Maria Ezeyza, which are traversed by the Arroyo Vivoratá, and further south along the sea-board is the Estancia Harmonia, belonging to Don Lorenzo Torres: in this last mentioned the arroyos of Santa Helena, Los Patos, Seco, and Los Cueros fall into the sea. The Estancia Vivoratá lies N.W. of the arroyo of that name, and belongs to Messrs. Bernal: it has several lagoons, called Estrella, Rodeo-grande, Blanqueada, and San Pascual. North-west of San Pascual is the large estate of Señora Anchorena de Aguirre, which is bisected by the Arroyo Grande, and has also a lagoon called Arbolitos.

The estancia of Carrolanquen lies westward of the last-named, and belongs to Messrs. Anchorena, who have rented it out to a number of sheepfarmers: it takes its name from a lagoon so called, the word being of Indian derivation. The lagoons of Chilca, Loma Verde, and Mojon are also on this property, and to the N.W. we find the Arroyo Chico, otherwise

called Napaleofú, which flows southward and is finally lost in the mountainous country near Sierra del Volcan. The family of Anchorena may be said to own nearly the whole of this partido. The estancias of Doña Andrea Anchorena at San Roman, and of Fabian Gomez at Invernado, adjoin the partido of Tuyú. The Ezeyza family have two large estancias eastward, extending from Lake Hinojal to the Arroyo Campamento; these lands are traversed by the Arroyo Grande, and have also a large lagoon called El Durazno. The estancias of Peralta Ramos, Sosa and Barbosa are near the confluence of the Campamento and Dulce arroyos.

The lands of this partido are well suited both for sheep and horned cattle: the former are usually placed on the boundaries of each estate, with runs towards the centre, and estancieros find this a good method for preventing their horned cattle from straying off the land. The great bulk of the inhabitants are natives of the Province of Santiago, in general a simple and harmless race of people. The land-holders are nearly all wealthy residents in Buenos Ayres, who come here only for a few months in summer. There are some foreigners, principally French-Basques or Italians, but not many English. A capataz usually earns \$500, and peons \$300 per month. Peons accustomed to hard work on horseback, such as marking cattle, parting out same for the market, &c., find constant employment at \$30 a day. The usual prices for stock are—Fat mares, \$100 to \$115; fat oxen for market, \$160 to \$200; sheep, \$12 to \$17.

Since 1869 many sheepfarmers have driven their flocks out to the open camps of this district; and lands have recently been rented by Irish sheepfarmers at \$25,000 per annum per league.

The valuation of land is \$170,000 per square league; total valuation, \$17,000,000; Contribucion tax, \$68,000. Stock returns—338,037 cows, 65,785 horses, 10,864 fine sheep, 663,197 mestiza sheep, 256,106 creole sheep, and 1,059 swine; these returns, however, include some of the newly formed partidos adjoining. Population—2,811 Argentines, 153 Spaniards, 119 French, 112 English, 55 Italians, 21 Germans, 9 Indians, 53 various: total 3,333. There are 10 houses and 2,615 ranchos, including 2 general stores and 48 pulperias. There are 6 alcaldes, 24 tenientes, 18 police, and 1,047 National Guards. There is no village or centre of population in the district, and the nearest towns are Ajó and Dolores, both about twenty-five leagues distant: Mar Chiquita may be considered three days' journey from Buenos Ayres, *via* Chascomus and Dolores.

Justice of Peace, Don Felix Bernal.

CHAP. X.

THE FAR SOUTH.

FROM THE SALADO TO PATAGONES.

Pila.

Situate about thirty-five leagues S. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 135 square leagues, and contains the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Rosa Anchorena,	20	Aguilera,	3
Pedro Anchorena,	12	Marin,	3
F. Gomez,	16	Yzurrieta,	3
N. & J. Anchorena,	25	Casalins, family,	6
Stegmann,	8½	José Miguens,	6
Agüero,	5	Gallo,	1½
Girado,	5	Prado,	1
Casco,	4	J. Elizalde,	3
Senillosa,	3½	Gamboa,	1
Chaves,	½	Scott,	½
Capdevila,	½	Barragan,	½
Public lands,	3	Brown,	¼

The boundaries of Pila are—N. the Rio Salado, which separates it from Ranchos; W. Las Flores; S. the new partidos of Rauch and Arenales; and E. Vecino and Dolores,

This is another partido in great part belonging to the Anchorena family, the first four estates having an aggregate of seventy-three square leagues: these properties extend in a straight line S.E. from the partido of Las Flores to the Vecino, a distance of fifty miles English. The lands of Doña Rosa Anchorena de Ibañez begin a couple of leagues south of the Rio Salado, and contain the lagoons of San José, Cardalito, Villanueva, Biscacheras, Chapalofquen, and Espadaña. The estancia of Pedro Anchorena lies south of the Arroyo and Lake Camarones. That of Don Fabián Gomez de Anchorena is further south, and comprises some small lakes called Sarten, Larga, and Gallego. The estates of Nicolas and Juan Anchorena comprise the whole country between Laguna de los Chanchos and the Arroyo Vecino.

The most notable estancia in the partido is Poronguitos, the estate of Messrs. George and Claudius Stegmann, the latter always residing here. It was established in 1836 by the father of the present owners, and has long been famous for its cabaña of fine sheep. The late Mr. Stegmann began the establishment with eighty Negrettis of the Imperial cabaña of Austria. The stock now counts 1,300 pure Negrettis and 60,000 other sheep. The estancia covers 60,000 acres, lying along the banks of the Salado (which is crossed at the Paso de Rocha) and tending inland to the Camarones lake. Messrs. Stegmann obtained a bronze medal for wool at the Paris Exhibition.

The lands of Torres, Girado, and Casco lie between the Camarones and the Paso de Venado on the Rio Salado: higher up than this pass we meet the Senillosa estancia; that of Aguilera is near the Paso de Rocha. The Casalins property is southward on the borders of the partido de Rauch. The estancias of Gamboa, Prado, Elizalde, Brown, &c., are in the vicinity of Lake Vichahuel and Arroyo del Toro. On the banks of the Camarones is the estancia of Don Lorenzo F. Agüero, famous for some fine sheep imported direct from Germany. The wool of this establishment is in good repute. The estancia-house is one of the handsomest in the southern districts having been erected from plans by Mr. Hunt. It is surrounded by a quinta and plantation, and the galpon is also worthy of notice. The Camarones is a permanent stream of good water, and in winter can only be passed in boats or by swimming. It is proposed to establish a town for the district of Pila on this land; and a bridge also is talked of.

Valuation of land \$150,000 to \$200,000 per square league; total valuation \$20,000,000; Contribucion tax \$80,000. Stock returns (including some newly formed partidos)—220,700 cows, 94,602 horses, 7,200 fine sheep, 111,500 mestiza sheep, 6,800 creole sheep, 550 swine. The agricultural returns show 120 chacras, covering about 12,000 acres. Population—2,967 Argentines, 92 Spaniards, 89 Italians, 76 French, 16 English, 9 Germans,

16 Indians, 96 various; total 3,361. There are 14 houses and 756 ranchos, including 40 pulperias. There are 7 alcaldes, 22 tenientes, and 12 police. The district has neither town, schools, nor church. The nearest towns are, Dolores 12 leagues E.; Las Flores 12 leagues W.; Chascomus 14 N.E.; and Ranchos 14 leagues N.; these distances are supposed to be taken from Lake Espadaña in the centre of the partido. Pila may be reached in one day from town, via Southern Railway to Chascomus.

Justice of Peace, Don Lorenzo Agüero, who is also Postmaster.

Vecino.

Situate about fifty leagues S. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 80 square leagues, and contains the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Ocampo,	7	Pizarro, family,	7
Agüero,	7	Garcia,	2½
Pinedo,	7	Puyol,	4
Ponce Bros.,	7	Vasquez; family,	4
Rodriguez,	8	Pereyra,	4
Fresco,	3½	Lara,	4
Castaño,	3	Maldonado,	2
Ituralde,	1½	Cepeda,	1
C. Sosa,	1½	Marin,	½
Olivares,	1	Lamadrid,	½
Ramirez,	½	Figuerola,	½
Reynoso,	½	Newton,	½
Palavicino;	½	V. Sosa,	½

The partido is bounded on the N. by Dolores, on the W. by Pila and Arenales, on the S. by Ayacucho, and on the E. by Monsalvo and Dolores. The district takes its name from the Arroyo Vecino which rises in the lagoon of the same name, near the forest of Tordillo, and traverses the country from east to west. In wet season this cañada is flooded for miles, offering some difficulty to travellers. The land of this partido is in general low, but most of it is suitable for sheep: the valuation is \$200,000 per square league; total valuation \$15,000,000; Contribucion tax \$60,000. The estancias of Ocampo, Agüero, Pinedo, and Ponce are N. of the Cañada del Vecino, adjoining the Anchorena estates of Pila; the intermediate boundary is the southern highroad to Tandil. Eastward we find the lands

of Fresco, Ituralde, Lara, and Pereyra, all bordering on Monsalvo. The estancias of Castaño, Puyol, and Garcia are on the southern border : and in the centre of the partido are those of Rodriguez, Pizarro, Olivares, Sosa, &c., all watered by the Vecino. The lagoons are small and too numerous to mention.

Of late years some Englishmen have started as sheep-farmers in this partido, but their number is inconsiderable. The latest official returns are so far back as 1859, and are as follows :—Population—1,515 Argentines, 19 Spaniards, 9 Italians, 7 English, 6 French, 2 Germans, 6 various ; total 1,564. There are 3 houses and 420 ranchos, including 24 pulperias. Stock returns—101,300 cows, 23,260 horses, 11,500 fine sheep, 58,000 mestiza sheep, 60,200 creole sheep, 400 swine. It is worthy of remark that the creole sheep exceed the mestiza class in this partido : nevertheless the district has progressed of late years, and the above returns can hardly now be regarded as correct. There are 34 chacras under fruit, vegetables, and grain, comprising altogether about 5,000 acres. There are 5 alcaldes, 13 tenientes, 12 police, and 290 National Guards. The partido has neither town, church, nor schools. The nearest towns are—Dolores 8 leagues N.E. ; Ranchos 23 leagues N. ; Azul 30 leagues W. ; and Tandil 24 S.W.

Justice of the Peace and Postmaster, Don Juan Viton.

Monsalvo.

Situate about fifty-two leagues S.S.E. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of eighty square leagues, and comprises the following estancias :—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
E. Ramos Mejia,	8	Diaz,	5
M. Ramos Mejia,	8	Acosta,	5
Señora Ramos de Madero,	10	Gonsalez,	1½
Señora Ramos de Elia,	10	F. Madero,	1
Celina Alzaga,	5	John Logan,	1
J. B. Peña,	4½	E. Varela,	1
Lastra,	4½	Invaldi,	1
Fran. Pereyra,	1	Arosa,	1
Felix Pereyra,	1	Centurion,	1
Rodriguez,	1	Soriano,	1
Areco,	9		

The partido is bounded on the north by Dolores, on the west by Vecino, on the south by Mar Chiquita, and on the east by Tuyú. The country is low, marshy, and in some places thickly wooded: there are numerous lagoons, at least forty of some magnitude, the largest being that of Caquel-Huincal. The forest of Monsalvo is near the borders of Tuyú, only four leagues distant from Montes Grandes. Monsalvo had an extent of 150 square leagues before the formation of the new partidos: the district has made little progress in recent years, the number of foreign settlers being comparatively small. The family of Ramos Mejia own nearly half the partido, their estancias lying along the highroad from Dolores to El Moro for a length of eight leagues: this is the same family of Ramos Mejia that has such handsome suburban properties between San Martín and the river of Matanzas. The estancias of Juan B. Peña at Monte del Chanco, of Lastra at Lake Contreras, and Acosta at Lake Monsalvo, are in the vicinity of Monsalvo wood: Logan's property adjoins that of Lastra. The Alzaga estancia is situate between two lagoons called Talitas and Las Toscas: that of Juan Antonio Areco lies southward, in the direction of Mar Chiquita, near Lake Quelqueheineul. The lands of Diaz and Gonzalez are near Monte Tancho, which is only an offshoot of the forest of Tordillo. The smaller properties of Varela, Pereyra, Invaldi, &c., are situate in a marshy country between Loma Partida and the borders of Ayacucho.

Monsalvo is distant only eight leagues from the Atlantic sea-board, the intervening country being the forest of Montes Grandes and partido of Tuyú. The land is valued at \$200,000 to \$250,000 per square league; total valuation, \$17,000,000; Contribucion tax, \$68,000. The statistical returns are those corresponding to Monsalvo before its territory was reduced by one-half in forming the new partidos. Population—8,509 Argentines, 295 Italians, 250 Germans, 149 French, 107 Spaniards, 77 English, 53 Indians, 137 various: total 9,577. There are 25 houses and 753 ranchos, including 43 pulperias. Returns of stock—258,000 cows, 41,141 horses, 357,000 fine and mestiza sheep, and 459,000 creole sheep. Agricultural returns—98 chacras, covering about 3,000 acres. There are 9 alcaldes, 36 tenientes, and 12 police.

There is neither town, school, nor church in the partido. The centre of the district may be considered 14 leagues S.W. of Ajó, 12 S. of Dolores, 28 E.N.E. of Tandil, 14 N.N.W. of the Mar Chiquita, and 22 N. of Laguna de los Padres.

Justice of Peace, Don Emiliano Aguirre; Postmaster, Don Luis Mercado.

Ayacucho.

Situate about 56 leagues S. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 115 square leagues, and comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Castaño,	16	Senillosa,	9
Ortiz Basualdo,	7	Mayol,	3
B. Subiaurre,	9	Rebol,	3
Lezama,	6	Miró,	3
Monasterio,	4	Vignal,	1½
Ferreyra,	2½	«Cacique Negro,»	4½
Iraola, family, ...	16	R. Gomez,	4
Girado, family,	6	Bargas,	2
Morales,	1½	D. Gomez,	1
Díaz,	1	Bisuarra,	4
Lopez,	1	Barrientos,	1
Garay, ...	1	Pereyra, family,	2
Burgos,	1	Salinas,	1
Fernandez,	1	José Henrique,	1½

The partido is bounded on the N.E. by Vecino, on the N.W. by Arenales, from which it is separated by the highroad to Tandil and Arroyo Tandileofu; on the S.W. by Tandil; on the S. by Balcarce; and on the E. by Mar Chiquita. It is one of the new partidos, and takes its name from the decisive victory over the Spaniards, which established the independence of all South America. It is watered by the Arroyo Chico, or Napolcofu, and a number of lakes. viz:—Hinojal, Cacique Negro, Barrancosa, Piedra, Cortadera, Loma Alta, Pozo de Fuego, Animas, Juncal, Esperanza, &c. This partido was formerly an integral part of Tandil, and is not yet properly organized. It is a wild and thinly-settled country, lying about midway between the Sierra de Tandil and the shores of the Atlantic; the sea-board is thirteen leagues E. from the nearest point of the district.

The estancias of Castaño and Yraola lie S.E. of the Arroyo Tandileofu; the first goes by the name of Hinojal, the second is called La Reconquista. Near the banks of the same stream we find the Cacique Negro, formerly belonging to Don Nicolas Coronel, but more recently sold by auction to Señor Cabo and other purchasers. The adjacent lands of Vignal were for some years occupied by two English sheep-farmers from Australia, who have since returned to England. This part of the country is not much in favor amongst foreign settlers. Lezama's property at the Juncal is traversed by the Arroyo Quetrelcofú, and further south are the lands of Rebol and

Ferreyra. The estancias of Basualdo, Miró, and Subiaurre lie N. of the Arroyo Chico, and this stream also waters the estate of Senillosa and Girado families. Nearer to the «sierras» are the lands of Bargas, Gomez, Diaz, Fernandez, &c. The estancias of Monasterio and Bisuarra are on the Arroyo Tandileofú.

There is neither town, church, school, nor Justice of Peace in this partido, nor have we any statistical returns, as these will be included in the returns for Tandil. The centre of the district is distant thirteen leagues E. of Tandil, 22 S.W. of Dolores, 18 N.W. of Laguna de los Padres, 18 W.N.W. of the Mar Chiquita, and 26 E.S.E. of Azul. The journey to town may be made in three days; first day on horseback to Dolores, second by diligence to Chascomus, third by rail to Buenos Ayres.

Postmaster, Don Martin Linera.

Arenales.

Situate about fifty-two leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 133 square leagues, and contains the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Pereyra,	20	Aroyo,	8
Señora de Lezama,	17	Balbin,	5
Diaz Velez,	20	Yraola,	4
Rufino, family,	16	G. Lezama,	4
Vela, family,	12	Alvarez,	2
Pourtale Bros.,	4	Godoy,	5
Dominguez,	2	Miguens, family,	4½
Rodriguez,	1	Palacios,	1
Merlo,	2½	Gonsalia,	1
Corbera,	2	Rivas,	1½

This is another of the new partidos, and its boundaries are—north Pila, west Rauch, from which it is separated by the Arroyo Langueyú; south Tandil, and east Ayacucho and Vecino. The only water courses are the Langueyú on the N.W. and the Tandileofú on the S.E.; there are numerous lagoons, but none of them of any importance. The Arroyo Langueyú seems a continuation of the Cañada del Vecino, and here the country is low and marshy: the rest of the partido is wild, open camp, at present but sparsely settled. The highroad from Dolores to Tandil forms one of the southern boundaries. The largest estancia is that of Don Eustaquio Diaz Velez, who

owns immense landed properties all through the south. Of almost equal extent is the estate of Don Leonardo Pereyra and the other heirs of Simon Pereyra, deceased. The estancia of Mme. Alzaga de Lezama is on the Arroyo Quetrefeófú. The lands of Pourtale, Merlo, Gonzalia, and Rivas lie north, near Laguna del Chanco. The large properties of the Vela and Rufino families are watered by the Langueyú. The Iraola and Balbin estancias are in the centre of the partido; and southward, on the banks of the Tandileófú we find those of Aroyo, Alvarez, Godoy, and others. The partido, when first formed (in 1864), had an area of 296 square leagues, but it has been stripped of half its extent, in forming other more recent partidos.

The official returns of 1864 are as follow: Population—3,517 Argentines, 330 Spaniards, 313 French, 94 Italians, 37 English, 5 Germans, 19 Indians, 5,330 various: total 9,645. There are 8 houses and 1,187 ranchos, including 39 pulperías. Stock returns—466,000 cows, 73,198 horses, 5,752 fine sheep, 1,272,577 mestiza sheep, 138,035 creole sheep, and 472 swine.

There is no town, school, or church in the partido, but the Government has subscribed \$160,000 towards building a state school; the centre of the district is distant 13 leagues N.E. of Tandil, 21 E. of Azul, 19 S.W. of Dolores, 23 S. of the Paso de Rocha on the Rio Salado, and 32 W. of Cape San Antonio on the Atlantic sea-board.

Justice of Peace, Don Felipe M. Brizuela; Postmaster, Don Martin Linera. Municipal revenue, \$400,000.

Rauch.

Situate about 46 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 145 square leagues

This is another of the new partidos, and takes its name from the valiant Colonel Rauch, a German by birth, who began his campaign against the Indians in 1822: during several years he performed a succession of brilliant exploits and drove the savages far into the desert, conquering an immense territory for the purposes of industry and colonization. He was at last treachously abandoned by his own men, and perished in the midst of a glorious and useful career. The boundaries of the partido are—N. Las Flores, from which it is separated by the Arroyos Gualichu and Azul; W. Azul; S. Tandil, and E. Arenales and Pila. The district is well watered: the Chapaleófú is a large stream traversing the partido from north to south;

an affluent of this river is called El Pantanoso. The Langueyú on the east, and the Gualichu, Azul, and Arroyo de los Huesos on the west, are also considerable water-courses. There are sundry small lagoons, such as the Barrancosa, Posada, Cerones, Chilcas, Nanyu, Colorado, Bueyes, and Espadaña.

The partido comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues	Name.	S. Leagues.
Vela, family,	20	Rodriguez,	7
Diaz Velez,	15	Alzaga,	5
Udaquiola,	12	José Chiclana,	5
Casal,	4	S. Chiclana,	4
R. Basualdo,	4	Silva, family,	8
Portela,	2	V. Basualdo,	2
Centurion,	4	Letamendi,	4
Rojas,	4	Casalins,	2
Echeverria,	3	J. Martinez,	2
Licate,	3	M. Martinez,	1½
Public Lands,	14	Genova,	1
Núñez,	1	Gonsalez,	1
Roldan,	1	Serpa, family,	2
Medrano,	2	Dominguez,	½
Juan D. Diaz,	1	Calixto Moujan,	9

The Vela territory lies between the Langueyú and the Chapaleofú, comprising twenty square leagues, besides twelve square leagues on the other side of the Langueyu, already mentioned in the partido of Arenales. Southward and also on the banks of the Chapaleofu is the Diaz Velez estate, one half of which is in like manner in the next partido, the whole forming thirty-five square leagues of land. The Udaquiola property is called Estancia de la Compañía (perhaps it belonged once to the Jesuits): it is near the Laguna Colorado, and the Chiclana estancia adjoins. Santa Rosa is another large estate, formerly belonging to Messrs. Lannusse Bros. and Don Juan B. Peña, and now the property of Don Calixto Moujan: it is westward of the Chapaleofu, lying between that river and the Arroyo de los Huesos. Southward and between the same rivers are the lands of Alzaga and Rodriguez. Monte Gualichu is on the arroyo of that name, and in this neighborhood are the estancias of Rojas, Ortiz, Basualdo, Echeverria, and the public lands. In the centre of the partido we find Casal, Martinez, and Serpa; on the borders of Pila are the Silva, Casalins, and Letamendi estancias.

There are no statistical returns; a portion of this partido was formerly included in Azul, and the rest belonged to Pila. There is neither church,

school, nor town in the district: the centre of the partido is distant 14 leagues N. of Tandil; 15 E. of Azul; 38 W. of Cape San Antonio; and 20 S. of Terrero's bridge on Rio Salado.

Justice of Peace, Don Francisco M. Letamendi.

Azul.

Situate fifty-five leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of nearly 400 square leagues, and comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Llavallol,	10	L. Cox,	5
Anchorena Bros.,	12	P. Martinez,	3
Acosta,	12	Barda,	3
Rosas,	12	M. Roldan,	4
Iturralde,	4	Peñalva,	3
Botet,	3	B. Roldan,	3
Leloir Bros.,	7	Aguirre,	2
M. Martinez,	6	Gutierrez,	2
Vidal,	5	Cordoba,	2½
Viton,	2	Islas,	1½
Dominguez, family,	3	Murua,	¾
Ulloa, family,	4	W. Grierson,	¾
H. N. Nicholson,	1½	Zarate, family,	2
William Laurie,	2	Julian Martinez,	1½
Palacios,	1½	Mosquera,	1
Lahitte,	3	John Freres,	3½
Alcantara, family,	3	Muñoz,	3
Luques,	3	Mendieta,	1¾
Mancilla, family,	5¾	Peredo,	2¼
Planes, family,	3½	Pardo, family,	7
Pondal,	1½	Santos,	1½
Sotuyo,	2¼	Peter Tenor,	1
Varela,	1½	Serantes, family,	4
Rocha,	1½	Reynoso,	3½
Miñana, family,	4½	Lavao,	1½
Gomez, family,	3½	Correa,	1½
Brid,	1½	Arista, family,	2¼
Alvarez, family,	3¾	Avila,	1½
Alvarado Bros.,	1½	Aristegui,	2¼
Thomas Tucker,	¾	Joseph Gordon,	½

Besides the above there is a number of smaller holdings called «Los Suertes del Azul,» each comprising three-quarters of a square league of land; they are 252 in number, viz.: Alvarez, Alicate, Aramo, Aguilar, Almada, Avalos, Acosta, Aguirre, Berdun, Baigorrea, Balcarce (2), Bardas (2), Baldovino (2), Ballesteros, Belgrano, Barragan, Balvidares, Burgos (3), Bustos, Coronel (2), Cabrera (2), Calandria, Chaves, Castellanos, Carabajal, Castro, Cejas, Carmona, Diers (2), Diaz, Espinosa (2), Echagüe, Figueroa, Fillon (2), Ferreyra, Fernandez, Guzman, Gonzalez (2), Guerriero, Guedes, Genova (3), Garro, Galvan, Grigera, Giles, Hornos (3), Herrera, Huertas, Izeta, Ibañez, Lopez (3), Lujan, Lara, Leiva, Leal, Lencina, Lasota, Merlo, Medina (3), Maldonado (2), Maya, Moron, Montenegro (2), Martinez (2), Mendez, Morua, Marquez, Matas, Navas (1), Ocampos, Olivera, Preciado, Prado, Pullisa, Ponce, Perez, Peralta, Pozo, Rivó, Rodriguez (8), Rinun, Rojas, Romero, Roldan (3), Sequeira, Salas (2), Sayago (2), Silva (1), Ramirez (6), Solano, Tenor, Bustamante, Ulloa, Urbina, Urquijo, Uran, Vega, Villalba, Villanel, Zavala, Zurita, Carriso, Celaya, Luna, and 104 others, covering altogether an area of 189 square leagues; These suertes surround the town of Azul, and are bounded on the E. by the Arroyo Cortaderas, and on the W. by the Talquen river: they extend in a straight line from the borders of Las Flores, in a S.W. direction to the desert, for a distance of twenty-two leagues. The Azul river flows through the midst of them, and in the south there is a barrier of hill-ranges separating them from the Indian pampas: these hills are designated Sierra Redondo, Pereguino, Sotuno, and Baya, and three leagues further out stands Fort Perdido, in a cañada of the same name.

The estancias of Llavallol, Viton, Vidal and Dominguez are situate between the Arroyos Cortaderos and Los Huesos, on the borders of Tandil. Further south in the hilly country we find Cox, Acosta, and Anchorena, the last-named in the vicinity of Cerro Colorado. The frontier line runs S.E. along these hills, from Sierra Quillalanquen (in the adjoining partido of Papalquen) to Sierra la Tinta near the head-waters of the Quequen Grande, about twenty-four leagues from the ocean. The distance from Quillalanquen to the Sierra Tinta is twenty-six leagues: about seven leagues E. of Quillalanquen is Fort Perdido, and four leagues further E. we meet Fort Miñana, built on the estancia of the Miñana family, near Lake Nutria: four leagues S. is Fort Otamendi, beyond the frontier line, and there are numerous estancias for some leagues even beyond this fort, which is near a lagoon called La Barrancosa. These estancias are Martinez, Roldan, Aguirre, Gutierrez, Barda, Peñalva, &c.; and between Fort Otamendi and the frontier we find the settlements of Don Felipe Botet and Señor Iturralde,

in the vicinity of Cerro La Plata and Cerro Canete. The large estate of the late Prudencio Rosas lies east of the town of Azul extending as far as Arroyo Corina. The properties of Ulloa, Cordoba, and Islas are on the banks of the Arroyo Los Huesos.

This part of the country until recently suffered much from Indian incursions, but is now comparatively unmolested. Numbers of young Englishmen are settling down here, as land is abundant and cheap: some have sheep-farms on rented lands, others occupy themselves in fattening cattle for the city market, and in this way young men of limited capital and active habits find a better start than in any other part of the River Plate territories. Azul, however, is not without its drawbacks, in the lawless state of society at present existing. One-third of the inhabitants are what is termed «tame Indians,» but a worse feature is the number of escaped vagabonds prowling about the frontier. The land is suitable both for sheep and cattle. The official valuation is \$120,000, and some English farmers have bought from Government at \$160,000 per square league; but sales between private parties generally go as high as \$250,000; total valuation \$57,000,000, against \$34,000,000 in 1861; Contribucion tax \$228,000.

Population—5,562 Argentines, 2,760 Indians, 914 French, 503 Spaniards, 230 Italians, 58 Germans, 56 English, 166 various; total 10,249. There are 387 houses and 1,988 ranchos. Stock returns—822,700 cows, 77,994 horses, 20,627 fine sheep, 812,023 mestiza sheep, 427,680 creole sheep, and 1,472 swine; being an average of 2,000 cows, 200 horses, and 3,000 sheep per square league. There are 9 alcaldes, 29 tenientes, 14 police, and 350 National Guards. There is a considerable amount of land under cultivation, comprised in 147 chacras, with an aggregate of nearly 100,000 acres.

The town of Azul has long been a place of trade and importance on the Indian frontier, and the head-quarters of the Government forces in the south. Before the Paraguayan war the garrison comprised 100 cavalry and 550 infantry of the Line, besides National Guards auxiliaries. In former years the place suffered much in the Indian wars, and it was besieged by the savage tribes only twelve years ago. It is now a rising town of 5,000 inhabitants, situated on the Azul river and surrounded by chacras. There are a church, schools, 162 shops and houses, a barrack, two mills, several brick-kilns, and some well-planted quintas. The best houses are those of Aguerribem, Brid, Bolondo, Chayé, Corneille, Mallet, Medrano, Aniran, Bastos, Belagoni, Cedrun, Ibarra, Ireverria, Lasalle, Leguisamon, Pereda, Payrot, Perez, Meabe, Rodriguez, and Vichy, valued from \$70,000 upwards. The mills are those of Dhers and Riviere. The

state-schools are attended by 75 boys and 73 girls. The municipality intend to build new school-houses, town-hall, and prison, for which purpose they have \$200,000 lodged in bank. The Provincial branch-bank of Azul was established in 1867, with a capital of \$3,000,000 m^c, for the districts of Azul, Rauch, Tapalquen, Tandil, and Necochea. The principal trade of the town is with the Indians, who sell stolen hides, rugs of their own manufacture, skins of beasts, &c.; the store-keepers pay them partly in liquor, but the authorities wisely take their arms from them before getting intoxicated. Governor Alsina in 1867 tried to prevail on the Indians to move further out, but their «tolderias» are pitched close to the town on the very estancias sacked by them in 1855. The foreign residents very often do police-duty, and they have recently asked the Government for a supply of 400 muskets. The town has a municipality of four members; municipal revenue \$140,000.

Azul may be reached in 2½ days from town, *via* Southern Railway to Altamirano station, whence the diligence starts on arrival of the morning train; the distance from Altamirano to Azul is about forty-two leagues. Azul is situate 12 leagues E. of the Sierra Quillalanquen, 16 N.W. of Tandil, 52 from the sea-board, 38 W.S.W. of Dolores, 21 S.W. of Las Flores, and 9½ S.S.E. of the town of Tapalquen.

Justice of Peace, Don José M. Medrano; Curate, Rev. Eduardo Martini; Postmaster, Don Manuel G. Bonorino.

Tandil.

Situate 60 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 165 square leagues.

The partido is bounded on the N.E. by Arenales and Rauch, on the N.W. by Azul, on the S.W. and S. by Necochea and Loberia, and on the E. by Balcarce. About eight leagues beyond the Tandil is the Sierra Tinta, where some excellent marble has been found; Dr. Burmeister classifies it as «Argentine agate marble.» Señor Borjes made explorations in 1864, and found the marble lying from twelve to twenty feet below the surface, and assuming different colors according to its depth: the veins extend for a great distance and are very accessible for waggons. The owner of the land (Señor Vela) advanced Borjes £100 for the enterprise, but the latter failed to get up a company, and the idea has not since been taken up. Before the

formation of the new partidos of Necochea and Balcarce the extent of Tandil was over 400 square leagues. The latest statistical returns are—Population—1,506 Argentines, 535 Indians, 34 Spaniards, 21 Italians, 10 French, 6 English, 5 Germans, 26 various; total 2,143: these, however, can no longer be considered exact. Stock returns not given. There are four houses and eighty ranchos, also 27 chaeras. The partido is little known to foreign residents: we are indebted to an English sheep-farmer of Tandil for the following account of this remote territory:—"The flat interminable plains which exist over the rest of the Province of Buenos Ayres are here diversified by the sierras, the ridges of which present an agreeable vista to the eye of the traveller, wearied by the monotonous scenery of the pampas. The sierras give birth to several beautiful streams of fresh, sweet water, the principal of which are the Capaleofu, the Huesos, the Arroyo Tandil, &c. These streams after running some fifteen or twenty leagues lose themselves in lagunas and swampy grounds. The pasture in this district is less refined, and the grasses coarser than nearer Buenos Ayres, and consequently not so well suited for sheep, but cattle do very well on them. The *estancias* are principally owned by native gentlemen, and have been but little subdivided, so that they are mostly from three to eight square leagues in extent; many are rented, the owners finding it more profitable than stocking the lands themselves. The rent varies from \$15,000 to \$20,000 the square league, capable of supporting 10,000 to 12,000 sheep, and where the centre of an *estancia* is occupied by cattle, *puestos* are rented on the boundaries at \$3,000 to \$4,000 per *puesto* for 2,000 sheep. The nominal price of land is \$200,000 to \$300,000 per square league. The sheep in this district are, as a rule, not so refined as those nearer town, and it is only within the last six years that foreigners have come to settle, bringing sheep with them. Sheep-farming is under the same depression here as in the rest of the province. Although land is cheaper, the sheep will not fatten so well, nor give so heavy a fleece as on the finer pasture lands, and the heavy freight for sending the wool into Buenos Ayres is nearly equivalent to the higher rent paid for land nearer town. The hides, wool, &c., are despatched to Buenos Ayres in bullock-carts, which make the journey of eighty leagues in from fifteen to twenty days in summer, and one or two months in winter. The freight varies from \$10 to \$14 per *arroba* of 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ ℔, as much as it costs to send the articles from Buenos Ayres to Europe. The freight from Buenos Ayres averages \$50 per *bulto* of 150℔ of bulky goods, 200℔ of heavy. The expenses of a sheep-farm are greatly enhanced by this heavy cartage, as all the material has to be brought from town, and the freight on pine and posts for the folds, &c., is as much as their first cost.

"The nominal price of sheep is from \$10 to \$15 per head, and cattle \$50 per head. With present prices of wool it is a hard business for the sheep-farmer to meet his expenses, and many are trying to meet the deficiency by sowing plots of wheat and maize.

"The town of Tandil is situated in a valley in the sierras, and has a very picturesque appearance. A stream lined with poplar and willow trees winds round it and works a flour mill owned by Mr. J. Fagh. The town possesses a fine national school and municipal offices, behind which is a small space entrenched by a deep ditch faced with stones, which served as a fort against the Indians in years gone by. About a league from the town is the famous rocking stone, which is a huge boulder balanced on the top of a sierra, and half overhanging the precipice; the balance is so delicate that a gentle breeze will make it tremble, and yet the fiercest storms fail to hurl it down. A very important trade is carried on here in country produce, it being the nearest town for the inhabitants of the frontier districts. Large quantities of wheat are sown in the neighborhood, on the slopes of the sierras; the soil seems well adapted to this crop, and the climate favorable. The principal risks are late frosts in the spring, which may destroy the blossom, and hail storms, of which there are generally one or two in the course of the summer. The wheat is cut by reaping-machines, trodden out by mares, and dressed by the wind in the open air. On account of the distance from Buenos Ayres, wheat cannot be grown profitably to send there, but up to the present year the quantity grown has not been sufficient to keep the mill supplied, and flour is frequently brought from Buenos Ayres. Potatoes grow well; maize is an uncertain crop, on account of the early frosts in the autumn.

"The communication between here and Buenos Ayres is carried on by diligences which run four times a month, and start from Chascomus, reaching Tandil on the third day from leaving town. The frontiers of the province extend from forty to fifty leagues to the south of Tandil. This vast extent of camp is occupied principally by cattle estancias, the grass being too coarse for sheep; the cattle when fat are travelled to Buenos Ayres. They thrive well on these lands, having plenty of room; but the business is an uncertain one on account of the Indians, but it is to be noted that although the southern farmers have been practically unprotected during this Paraguayan war, there have been no extensive raids as in the Provinces of Santa Fé and Cordoba.

"The great desideratum is the railway, which it is to be hoped will be carried on to Tandil, it being the central town of the settled camps of the south, and all the produce of the country for fifteen leagues on each side

would find its way to it; besides there is but little doubt that as soon as Tandil with its beautiful scenery and temperate climate became known and easy of access to the people of Buenos Ayres, it would become a fashionable summer residence.

"The principal foreign residents are Mr. J. Fugh, the mill, Tandil; George J. Hinde, the Isla Chapaleofu; R. Ginnis, George Crebbis, J. Crebbis, R. W. Burnett, W. F. Goodfellow, W. Osgood, the Macedonia; Mr. A. Gebbie, R. McKinlay, A. and S. James, R. McAusland, Mr. Harrow, Mr. Cooney, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Laurie, San Javier. A number of Danes, principally employed in agriculture, reside near Tandil. Most of the store and hotel-keepers are French, and great numbers of French Basques reside in the country. The best hotel in Tandil is the Café de la Piedra; the charges are reasonable, and the accommodations good."

The partido comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Miguens,	12	Anchorena,	3
Vela,	12	Machado,	4
Casares,	12	Girado,	2
Ed. Lumb,	6	Arance,	1
Gonzalez,	2½	Algaras,	1
Avalos,	2	Arana,	15
Almada,	1½	Iraola,	6
Piñero,	3	Cordoba,	6
Paz,	1	Saavedra,	13
Ramos,	1	Ramirez,	5
Gomez, family,	18	Uriarte,	5
Saenz Valiente,	7	Butler,	5
Lopez,	6	Urraco,	1½
Daval,	4	Morales,	1
Solanet,	4	Ponce Leon,	1

The Duval estancia, situate on the Arroyo Chapaleofu, was recently sold at auction by Mr. Billingham for \$250,000 per square league, the houses and corrals being taken at a valuation.

Tandil is situate 16 leagues S.E. of Azul, 28 N. of the mouth of the Quequen Grande, 27 N.W. of Laguna de los Padres, 32 S.W. of Dolores, 23 S. of Las Flores

Justice of Peace, Don Carlos Darragueira; Curate, Rev. José M. Rodriguez; Postmaster, D. Nicanor Elizalde. The state-schools are attended by 57 boys and 45 girls. Valuation of landed property \$30,000,000, against \$20,000,000 in 1862. Contribucion tax \$120,000.

Balcarce.

Situate seventy-four leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 210 square leagues, and contains the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
«Sociedad Rural,»	.... 30	Suarez,	8
J. B. Peña, ....	.... 18	Ancherena,	9
Lezama, ....	.... 15	Saenz Valiente, family.	21
Pereyra, ....	.... 8	Otamendi, family, . . .	5
Baudrix, ....	.... 11	Casco, family,	4
Peralta Ramos,	12½	Trapani, family,	10
Subiaurre, ....	.... 3	Campos, family,	8
Vivot, ....	.... 3	Eseobar,	3
Llanos, ....	.... 2	Castelli,	2½
N. Johnstone,	1½	Nero,	2½
Burgos, ....	.... 4	Barragan,	2
Reynoso, ....	.... 2	Luengo,	2
Moyano, ....	.... 1	Sanchez,	3
Sueldo, ....	.... 4	Amarante,	4
Deodria, ....	.... 2	Canet,	1½
Castro, ....	.... 1	Lobo,	½
Islas,	½	Site for town,	1½

This is another of the new partidos, and formerly known as Laguna de los Padres. Its boundaries are—on the east the Atlantic Ocean, on the north Mar Chiquita, on the west Ayacucho, and on the south Loberia. The western boundary runs for some distance close to the Arroyo Chico, or Napahoff; the southern boundary consists of the Sierra del Vulcan, its branches (the sierras Barbosa and Vigilancia), and the Arroyo Chocori, which falls into the Atlantic eleven leagues south of Cape Corrientes. The seaboard extends for fifteen leagues, taking in Loberia Chica, Cape Corrientes, and the mouths of seven large arroyos, viz.: La Tigra, Carolina, Ballenera, Totorá, Durazno, Brusquitas, and Chapalmalan. A great part of the district is occupied by ranges of hills, the principal of which are the Sierra Vulcan and Sierra de los Padres. The former seems a continuation of the Tandil range, and there is a fertile valley intervening which the Indians call Vulcan or «the opening,» and hence (says Parish) is derived the name of the range which runs eastward in a continuous line for thirty-six miles to the sea. «Towards the north it has the appearance of a steep wall: on the summits are extensive ranges of table-land, well watered, and with good pasturage. At a short distance from the coast the hills break off

in stony ridges, running down to the sea, and forming the headland of Cape Corrientes, in latitude 38d. 6m., and further south a line of rocky cliffs, which bounds the shore as far as Cape Andres.» These hills give birth to most of the streams that irrigate the camps of the partido. Thirty years ago this part of the country was over-run by the Indians, but now it is perfectly secure: the estancias are on a large scale, well stocked with sheep and cattle, and the partido is in fact a large grazing farm, from which are brought every year great herds of cattle for the city markets and the saladeros. The lands, especially near the sea, are considered the best in the south.

The estancia of the late Sociedad Rural is now mostly the property of Messrs. Martinez de Hoz; it lies southward of Cape Corrientes, and the coast abounds in seals (otherwise called sea wolves), which will before long give rise to a lucrative business in the skins and oil of these animals. On the same land there are also some chalk quarries. On the same line of coast are the estancias of Otamendi, Campos, Trapani, and Peralta Ramos, intersected by the arroyos already mentioned. Inland, covering a great extent of hill country, from Sierra de los Padres to Sierra Barbosa, are the Saenz Valiente estates; while those of the Suarez family are northward, on the Arroyo Dulce. The large possessions of Peña, Anchorena, Lezama, and Baudrix are situate on the two chief branches of the Arroyo Grande; the Estancia San Simon, of Don Leonardo Pereyra, is on the Arroyo Chico, near the borders of Tandil. The smaller properties of Vivot, Ninian Johnstone, Llanos, Barragan, Subiaurre, Camet, &c., are in the vicinity of Laguna de los Padres.

In 1747 the Jesuits founded a settlement on the lake which still preserves their name, situate four leagues inland in a N.W. course from Cape Corrientes. The site was well chosen, being suitable for an agricultural establishment, of easy access to the sea, and offering every facility for defence. The Fathers were unable to reduce the wild pampa tribes to habits of order and industry, and the establishment was abandoned after ten years of unavailing labor. Some remains of the buildings, and the fruit trees planted by the Jesuits, still remain. The lake covers about two square miles in extent, and is surrounded by thick plantations. About three leagues eastward, at the mouth of Arroyo Cardalito, near Loberia Chica, a site has been marked out for a town, and there is a port suitable for vessels of some size. Don Patricio Peralta Ramos has a saladero hereabouts, where he slaughters cattle, mares, and sheep: he expended some money on an iron mole, which has never been finished, but which was much injured in a heavy storm last year.

Laguna de los Padres is situate 7 leagues S.W. of the Mar Chiquita lake, 20 N.E. of the mouth of the Quequen Grande, 75 E.N.E. of Bahia Blanca, 70 E. of the Sierra la Ventana, 27 S.E. of Tandil, and 35 S. of Dolores. It is four days' journey from town.

Justice of Peace, Don Pedro Bouchet; Postmaster, Don Juan A. Peña. Municipal revenue, \$23,000.

Loberia.

Situate about seventy-five leagues south of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 190 square leagues, and comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Guerrico,	10	E. Diaz Velez,	10
S. Valiente, family,	10	Martinez de Hoz & Sons,	10
Peredo,	6	Lastra,	6
Saavedra,	6	Luro,	7
Cuesta,	5	Alegre,	6
Cobo,	6	Arruda,	6
Dasso,	6	Barbosa, family,	9
Castañera,	6	Otamendi,	10
Martinez,	2	Rico,	3
Sabatté,	2	Eustaquio Torres,	4½
Faramiñan,	1½	Flores,	3
Quintana,	1½	Maldonado,	2
James Gaynor,	2	Pita,	2
Suarez,	2	Otero,	2
Gandara,	2	Machado, family,	5
Gainard Bros.,	2	Ortega,	1¼
F. Arze,	6	Sotelo,	1
A. Diana,	2	Reynoso Bros.,	3
Carlos F. Casares,	3½	Pieres,	3
Galiano,	2	Picado,	2
Vega Bros.,	1½	Albarcellos,	2
Muñoz,	1	Perez,	1
J. N. Fernandez,	10	Macias,	1

The partido is bounded on the north by the Arroyo Chocorí, which separates it from Balcarce, on the west by Tandil, on the south by the River Quequen Grande, separating Loberia from Necochea, and on the east

by the Atlantic. It has a coast line of ten leagues, and here debouch three large arroyos, the Nutria Mansa, Malacara, and El Moro. The partido extends inland twenty leagues, till reaching the sierras of Tandil. The Sierra del Vulcan forms the N.W. boundary. The River Quequen Grande is fed by a number of large streams, such as the Quequen Chico, Quélacinta, Mostazas, Los Huesos, Tamangueyu, and Arroyo Seco. The Quequen Grande falls into the Atlantic twenty-two leagues S.W. of Cape Corrientes: there is a bar at the mouth, but the river has usually a sufficient depth of water for vessels of some burden. The late Colonel Miguel Martinez de Hoz ascended the river, in 1831, with the steamboat Buenos Ayres, laden with cargo, as high as his estancia of El Moro, and returned in the same way with a cargo of wool and hides. This river is one of the most considerable in the province, and was for many years regarded as the frontier limit southwards. So late as 1853-54 the Indians caused much annoyance to the settlers, but now the whole coast is settled as far as Bahía Blanca and these camps offer every advantage, especially for cattle farming. Before the formation of the new partidos Loberia had an area of 1,300 square leagues, of which only 306 were held by settlers, the rest being public land, or rather Indian territory. The camps are rich and fertile, and famous for raising the largest cattle in the province: in winter time this partido supplies the city markets almost exclusively, the other partidos having little or no fat cattle at that season. The sea coast is lined with sandhills, but the adjacent lands are very rich. The land of this partido is valued from \$180,000 to \$250,000 per square league; total valuation, \$32,000,000; Contribucion tax, \$128,000. The rent for camp is \$20,000 per league per annum.

The Sociedad Rural had an estancia of thirty square leagues situate between the Arroyo Chocori and El Moro, along the sea coast; part of it now belongs to Messrs. Martinez de Hoz; this land is well watered and fertile. El Encanto belongs to Señor Guerrico, and this lies between El Moro and the Quequen. The estancias of Gobo, Barbosa, and Arruda are on the Quequen Chico. Those of Cuesta, Saavedra, and Otero are on the borders of Tandil, amidst the hill country; and at the foot of Sierra Vulcan we find Flores, Alegre, Sabatté, Castañera, Rico, Peredo, and Saenz Valiente. In the centre of the partido, traversed by the Arroyo Tamangueyu, are the estancias of Arze, Otamendi, Machado, Dasso, and others. The Cerro Redondo, on the Faraminán estancia, is a detached group of hills almost midway between the Sierra Vulcan and the Tandil range. This partido, more than any other, abounds in hills and water courses.

The statistical returns are—3,029 Argentines, 139 Spaniards, 50 French, 46 Italians, 15 English, 8 Germans, 78 various; total 3,365. There are 2 houses and 1,024 ranchos, including 3 shops and 77 pulperias. Stock—1,050,964 cows, 118,780 horses, 3,850 fine sheep, 297,400 mestiza sheep, 87,900 creole sheep, and 592 swine. It will be remarked that in this partido cows are much more numerous than sheep, and as a consequence few foreigners have as yet settled here. There are 44 chacras, covering 2,000 acres of tilled land. There are 5 *alcaldes*, 24 *tenientes*, and 18 police. It is proposed to build a town, probably at the mouth of the Quequen Grande, and this point will be distant 88 leagues S. of Buenos Ayres, 15 S. of the Sierra Vuleau, 28 S.S.E. of Tandil, 58 E. of Bahía Blanca, and 20 S.W. of Laguna de los Padres.

Justice of Peace, Don Eustaquio C. Torres, who is also postmaster.

Necochea.

Situate about 80 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of 420 square leagues.

This is another of the new partidos, and not yet fully organized: neither have we any statistical returns, as it was formerly comprehended in the partido of Loberia. The boundaries are—on the N.E. the Quequen river, which separates this partido from Loberia; on the N. the Sierras of Tandil; on the N.W. the Azul frontier camps in the direction of Sierra Quillanganquen; on the S.W. and S. the partido of Tres Arroyos; and on the S.E. the Atlantic. The partido has a coast-line of sixteen leagues from the mouth of the Quequen Grande to that of Arroyo Cristiano Muerto: it extends inland thirty-two leagues to Fort Otamendi on the Azul frontier. It is watered by the numerous affluents of the River Quequen and Cristiano Muerto; the principal streams are Calaveras, Colangueyú, Pescado-Castigado, Mendoza, Zavala, and Cortaderas. The country is more level than in the neighboring partidos: there are numerous lagoons, of which the largest is that on the estancia of Messrs. Herrera, Saavedra & Co.; there is a hill called Malaltué in the middle of the lake. Few habitations and little or no timber are yet seen on these wild camps, which were until recently the hunting-grounds of the Indians. The Díaz Velez territory lies along the sea-board, south of the Quequen river; this stream may be forded at Paso Galisteo, about six leagues from its mouth, and one and a-half below the confluence of the Quequen Chico: the estancia of Don Manuel J. Cobo

occupies the delta of the last-named stream and the Quequen Grande : there is another ford on this estancia, called Paso de Otero, about six leagues higher up than the Galisteo pass.

The partido comprises the following estancias :—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
E. Diaz Velez,	35	Olivera, family,	18
Alzaga,	13	Negretto,	6
Anchorena, family,	12	Arze, family,	10
Areco,	12	Juan N. Fernandez,	30
Hornos,	12	Fulco & Rebol,	11
Echeverria,	8	Cobo,	6
V. Canal,	6	Vela, family,	22
Lara,	7	Lopez,	12
Lanuz & Crisol,	10	Iraola,	12
Tobal,	5	Lastra,	16
Montes de Oca,	4	Echenegucia,	10
Vasquez,	4	Udaquiola,	7
Rodriguez,	6	Subiaurre,	3
Girado,	3	Ramirez,	2
Santa Maria,	3	Casal,	2
Viton, family,	7	M. Perez,	6
Roque Perez,	6	Herrera & Co.,	12
Larrosa,	4	Ortiz,	4
Chaves,	6	Dominguez,	3
Larriba,	6	Cañas,	3
Ezeisa,	6	Cornell,	2½
Rico,	5	Bauza,	4
Ferreyra,	3	Faramiñan,	2
P. Obligado,	1	Pizarro,	2
Viera & Real,	4	Rom,	2½
F. Torres,	2	Ortiz,	2½
Invaldi,	2	Casas,	3
Olivares,	1½	Public lands,	16
Raymond Prat,	6		

The large estancia of Juan Nepomuceno Fernandez is traversed by the arroyos Calaveras and Colangueyu. Near the hilly country of Sierra Tinta and the Tandil we find the lands of Vela, Ortiz, Dominguez, and Udaquiola. The Anchorena property is further west, at a point called Cinco Lomas. On the Indian frontier we find John Cornell, Chaves, Larriba, Hornos, and Areco. Returning eastward by the Arroyo

Pescado-Castigado we meet on the north of this stream the estates of Iraola, Lastra, Cañas, and Prat; south of the stream are Echenegucia, Alzaga, Lanuz, and Olivera. On the north bank of the Cristiano Muerto are Invaldi, Torres, Perez, Olivares, Ramirez, Subiaurre, Santa Maria, and Girado. On the sea-board there is a lagoon called Saladas, on the estancia of Marcelino Rodriguez: the coast is lined with sand hills.

The best site for a town would perhaps be at Paso Otero, on the Quequen Grande, about twelve leagues from its mouth; this point would be thirty-six leagues E. of Sierra Pilla-Huinco; 11 S.W. of the Sierra Vulcan; 23 W.S.W. of Laguna de los Padres; 19 S. of Tandil; 38 S.E. of Quillalanquen: and 52 E.N.E. of Bahia Blanca.

Justice of Peace, Don Luis Somosa; Postmaster, Don Alberto Marquez; Municipal revenue, \$9,000

Tres Arroyos.

Situate about 100 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, has an area of about 600 square leagues

This is another new partido, hitherto supposed to belong to Loberia or Bahia Blanca, but for the most part Indian country. It is now more than half settled on, and comparatively safe from Indians. The boundaries are, N.E. the Arroyo Cristiano Muerto; N. Indian territory; W. the Sierra Pilla-Huinco; S.W. the river Sauce Grande; and S.E. the Atlantic. The coast-line is twenty-four leagues long, from the mouth of the Cristiano Muerto to that of the Sauce Grande. The rivers Tres Arroyos and Quequen Salado traverse the whole partido and fall into the Atlantic. There are few lagoons worth noticing, except that of the Sauce Grande, on the river of that name, about fourteen leagues E. of the town of Bahia Blanca.

The fort of Tres Horquetas, situate at the confluence of the three branches which form the Tres Arroyos river (called by the Indians «Claro-meco») was for some time the utmost point of the south frontier; and here it is now proposed to build a town which will be called Olabarria. The estancias marked with an asterisk are situate between this line and Sauce Grande. The Quequen Salado runs parallel with the Tres Arroyos, and is about six leagues further south. The Sauce Grande passes within eight leagues E. of the town of Bahia Blanca. The Sierra Pilla-Huinco, forming in part the western limit, near the head-quarters of the Sauce Grande, is distant only twenty leagues from the sea-board; the Sierra Curamalal is a continuation of the same range westward; the Sierra Ventana lies S.W. beyond the Sauce Grande, and is about twelve leagues from Bahia Blanca.

The highest peak of the Ventana range, by Fitzroy's measurement is 3,350 feet above the level of the sea, from which it is distant forty-five miles: it is 2,500 feet above the level of the surrounding plain. Parish mentions a small stream flowing between the ranges of Ventana and Curamalal, which bears the name of Ingles-Malhuida, from the circumstance of an Englishman having been put to death here by the Indians.

The partido comprises the following estancias:—

Name.	S. Leagues.	Name.	S. Leagues.
Yasquez, family,	23	Olabarriá,	6
Elizalde,	6	Herrera,	5
Macias,	6	Pereyra, family,	9
Soaje Bros.,	12	Jardin,	5
Baigorria,	6	Viton,	5
Dantas	6	Pintos,	6
Aug. Rohl,	6	Marenco,	2½
Valdez, Bros.,	6	José Lopez,	4
Aldao,	6	Guevara,	3
D. Segui,	7	Soler,	3
Lefrancois,	5	Subiaurre,	5
F. Moreno,	6	Letamendi,	6
Uriarte,	4	Garcia,	6
Vivas,	3	Rosetti & S. Valiente,	4
Noreiga,	2	Perez,	3
Diaz,	5	*Miguens,	15
Appelanes,	4	*Dascalzi,	12
Duran,	4	*Anchorena,	8
George Sanders,	3	*Echenegucia,	6
Miró, family,	8	*Elias,	12
Brizuela,	3	*Salas & Co.,	15
Cardenas,	3	*Ovejero,	7
Bernardes,	3	*Alvarez,	12
Casariogo,	3	*Arzac,	12
Machaly,	2	*Ochoa,	12
Genova, family,	2	*Chielana,	12
Caparros,	1	*Gomez Bros.,	18
Bustamante,	1	*Saravia,	12
Rodriguez,	6	*A. Vela,	6
Puyol,	4	*Felipe Vela,	7
Madero,	6	*Leon Vela,	8
Casas, family,	8	Unsettled lands,	200

The sixteen estancias marked with an asterisk are public lands, the holders having only a squatter's right.

The new town of Olabarria will be 94 leagues S.S.W. of Buenos Ayres, 36 S. of Azul, 18 E.S.E. of Sierra Pilla-Huinco, 30 S.W. of Tandil, 43 W.S.W. of Laguna de los Padres, 10 leagues N. of the mouth of the Tres Arroyos on the sea-board, and 32 E.N.E. of Bahia Blanca.

Justice of Peace, Don Samuel Roseti; Postmaster, Don Benigno Macias.

Bahia Blanca.

Situate 115 leagues S.W. of Buenos Ayres, may be said to have an area of 200 square leagues, taking its limits as the following: north the Sierra Ventana, west the River Sauce Chico, south the bay of Bahia Blanca and the Atlantic Ocean, and east the River Sauce Grande. This part of the country, though so remote and little known, offers many advantages to settlers, either in an agricultural or a pastoral point of view. The high grounds are usually about 100 feet above the level plain, the latter being little higher than the sea level. The soil of the high ground is mostly fine and sandy, and beneath this there is tosea, which is useful for limestone, or may be employed instead of stone in building houses or corrals. In the low grounds the soil is rich and alluvial, and well suited for agriculture: irrigation is easily obtained. All the quintas of the town are irrigated by a system of water-works constructed by Rosas in his expedition of 1833, and it still bears the name «Zanja de Rosas.» The cultivation of wheat is now attaining such dimensions that the crop for 1869 is estimated at 5,000 fanegas. All kinds of fruit trees thrive here remarkably, especially grapes, and from these is made the Chocoli wine. Nevertheless, the climate is somewhat cold, though more temperate than at Tandil, where peaches cannot ripen. Snow is seen at rare intervals, once in three or four years. The temperature is dry and windy, and it rains less than at Buenos Ayres: the N.W. wind is the most frequent. On the high and desert camps the grasses are «pastos fuertes,» which grow so wide apart that in wet seasons a soft grass springs up here and there between. The low grounds abound in soft grasses, viz.: alfilerillo, trefoil, trevo de olor, and gramilla: there is not much burr. When land has been three or four years stocked with sheep and cattle the vegetation changes, the «pastos fuertes» gradually disappear, and are replaced by soft grass, thistles, trefoil, &c.

Timber is indigenous; willows of the «sauce colorado» species are found on the banks of the Sauce Grande and Sauce Chico, suitable for building or firewood. In the salt marshes near the coast abounds a shrub called Matorro, very good for burning; and on the high grounds are found various kinds of brushwood, such as chañar, piquillin, algarobillo, brusquilla, barba de chivo, manco caballo, &c. Near Salina Chica, about fifteen leagues west of Bahia Blanca, there is an abundance of timber, the algarroba being much sought both for firewood and for making corral posts.

This district is one of the most favored in the province as regards an abundance of water courses. A number of fresh water streams flow from the Sierra Ventana through the low grounds, never running dry at any season. The salt bed of Salina Chica supplies excellent salt, which is gathered in summer: fortunately a stream of fresh water runs hard by, for the use of men and animals; there is also fresh water on the road to Salinas.

The town of Bahia Blanca stands two leagues from the port. The entrance to the bay is easy; there was a pilot in the time of Rosas, and one is now much wanted. The communication by sea with Buenos Ayres is a great advantage, the usual freight being \$3 to \$5 per arrobe. The steamer Patagones, for which Aguirre & Murga receive a subvention, neglects Bahia Blanca, and it is proposed to ask Government for half the subvention and put on a steamer specially for this port. The district of Bahia Blanca has a population of about 2,000 souls, of whom three-fourths reside in the town: they may be estimated thus—1,200 Argentines, 200 Indians, 200 Italians, 100 Spaniards, 50 French, 50 English and Germans, 200 various. There are 177 azotea houses and only 170 ranchos. The garrison usually comprises 200 soldiers and 120 National Guards, besides which the «friendly Indians» form a company of seventy lances: these last are under the cacique Francisco Ancalas, who ranks as a lieutenant-colonel, and whose eldest son holds a respectable post in the Government-house at Buenos Ayres. The Indians of Salinas Grandes frequently come to the town to barter their home-made ponchos and the skins of animals and ostrich feathers.

The history of Bahia Blanca is quite modern. In 1828 the fort was founded by Colonel Martiniano Rodriguez, who had already founded Tandil. The garrison suffered greatly from privation, sickness, and the Indians, till 1833, when Rosas came into power. The fort was soon changed into a town, a regular service of post-horses was established in all directions, and couriers plied at certain intervals to and from Buenos Ayres. The desert camps were speedily covered with cattle and mares, and all the arable lands up to the Sauce Grande were laid under grain. Business grew up,

and Messrs. Vela and other wealthy estancieros came and founded large establishments. The fall of Rosas in 1852 was attended with a terrible change; the Indians everywhere spread desolation, carrying their inroads into the very public square of the town: they burned the ranchos, killed the settlers, and carried off the cattle, so that soon the neighboring hillsides were occupied by gamas and ostriches. An attempt was made to get up an Italian Agricultural Legion, but the leader was murdered by his men, and this failed. Mr. Dasso projected an Italian colony on the Sauce Grande; the first families that were brought out refused to go further than the town. It was only in 1863 that the first efforts were made to re-people the estancias around the town. The Naposta valley was the first place settled on, as it was suitable for sheep, and these offer little temptation to the Indians. Instead of ranchos the settlers built substantial brick houses with flat roof and a parapet all round, a ladder from within giving access thereto in case of danger. A man with a rifle can in this manner defend himself and also his sheep corral without the least risk. The settler is exposed to lose his horses unless he tie them up at night, which will oblige him to plant alfalfa and keep a stock of hay.

The first sheep-farmers were: Sig. Caronti, a native of Como; Messrs. Heusser and Claraz, from Switzerland, who settled in 1864, in the Naposta valley, four miles from the town. In 1865 came Mr. Arnold, a North American, also in the Naposta; in 1866 the well-known estanciero Mr. Richard Newton started a farm on the Sauce Grande; in 1868 came also to the Sauce Grande, Messrs. Hentze, of Saxony, and the following Englishmen:—John and Arthur Mildred, Edmund Goodhall, Bryan Smyth, Henry Edwards, Robert Grieve, John Sinclair, Watson, and Shuttle. On the Sauce Chico the first settler was Sig. Bozano, a native of Genoa; on the Saladillo Mr. Philip Caronti; and finally in 1838 the famous Basque estanciero Don Pedro Luro, with his brothers-in-law, F. and T. Prader, started an establishment at the Naposta. There are at present over 100,000 sheep in the district. The climate being dry the wools are light and not very greasy, but the sheep give more grease when killed than in the north, and the increase of the flocks is something extraordinary; severe weather being rare there is little mortality of sheep from this cause, except when a night of hard frost occurs, and then some lambs perish.

In the present time, when wool and sheep are low, while land is so dear in the rest of the province, no district offers better advantages for new beginners than Bahia Blanca and Patagones. The cheap and ready transport afforded by sea renders the price of all necessities of life, such as provisions and clothing, much cheaper than in any other part of the camp. As soon

as foreign trading vessels can come here direct, and load and unload alongside the wharf, the price of imported goods will be cheaper than at Buenos Ayres. The cheapness of freight to Buenos Ayres also enhances the value of wool, which sells here at double the price obtainable at Tandil. Meantime there is an anomaly in the wheat-trade; the wheat is mostly sent to Buenos Ayres, and flour is brought back thence for use of the inhabitants; there are at Bahía Blanca some «atahonas» or mills worked by mules, and a water-mill on the Naposta, somewhat out of repair. Near the town of Azul there are some large water-mills which drive a brisk business; it is every way likely that a similar enterprise at Bahía Blanca would pay well: the Naposta has always a splendid water power, and with the outlay of a little capital the annual crop of 5,000 fanegas of corn might be ground on the spot instead of being exported to Buenos Ayres. The district, moreover, offers every advantage to industrious puesteros who would devote their leisure hours to cultivating a patch of wheat, maize, zapallos, or vegetables.

There is at Bahía Blanca an unpretending inn, but Englishmen usually put up at the house of Mr. George Little, a North American, who has one of the best shops in the place. The Comandante, Colonel José Llano, is also very kind to strangers, as well as the Justice of Peace, Don Mariano Mendez, and Captain Coronti. The principal wholesale houses are those of Francisco Bozano, Mariano Mendez, Galvan & Co., Julian Calvente, Miranda, and B. Costa. Parties wanting waggons may apply to Santiago Bonfiglio or Manuel Echagues, the first a Lombard, the second a Basque; both are worthy of all confidence, and their charges are reasonable. There are no livery stables in the place, but if the stranger wish to make an excursion he must look up Hypolito Bramajo, Cayetano Arze, or J. Bustos, who have always fine relays of horses at a reasonable charge: these men are experienced guides and most trustworthy fellows. If the visitor wish to push his excursions some distance into the Indian country he will do well to hire an Indian guide, and the most trust-worthy are Pedro Lucero and José Andres Milipil; the latter is brother-in-law to the Cacique Ancalao. These men also serve as guides in making the journey overland to Patagones, a distance of over forty leagues. The traveller must be careful in hiring any other guide than the above-named, unless well recommended by Mr. Little, Señor Coronti, or the Justice of Peace.

Bahía Blanca is only 115 leagues overland from Buenos Ayres, but the distance by sea is double. The land journey is so tedious and difficult as seldom to be undertaken: there is no mail-coach service. The sea voyage varies according to the weather, and may be reckoned at five days.

Justice of Peace, Don Exequiel Real de Azua; Postmaster, Don Sixto Laspiur. Municipal revenue, \$16,000. The state schools are attended by 54 boys and 42 girls. The port returns show 21 vessels, with 1,665 tons burden.

Patagones.

Situate 160 leagues from Buenos Ayres, comprehends the tail-end of the South American continent, from the Rio Negro to the Straits of Magellan, between the 41st and 53rd degrees of south latitude, and 65 and 72 west longitude, the eastern boundary being the Atlantic, and the western a snowy range of mountains called Cordillera de Nieve, a prolongation of the Andes chain. This vast territory is about six times the extent of England: it is as yet for the most part unexplored.

The first impressions of the Rio Negro, as the traveller proceeds up the river towards the port of El Carmen, are highly agreeable: the bluffs on the north side are about 150 feet high, and the valley is about two leagues wide, the river winding its way picturesquely between the cuchillas of sandstone. Mr. Harris had a sandstone quarry from which he got material for sidewalks. There is also plenty of tosca and anargillaceous clay proper for making tiles, as also a layer of chalk, of pure crystalline aspect and great extent, on the north side of the river. There are numerous petrifications of marine substances. Ascending the cuchilla we come upon a vast plain, in some places sandy, in others of argillaceous soil, and again covered with small pebbles called «*pedras chinás*.» The vegetation is mostly of «*pastos fuertes*» intermingled with «*alfilerillo*,» and here and there a number of thorny shrubs, such as «*chañar*,» «*piquillin*,» «*algarroba*,» «*mata-perro*,» «*uña de gato*,» «*maqui de incienso*:» this last gives a resin which when burnt yields an odor like incense. These shrubs seldom grow higher than a man on horseback, although the «*chañar*» trees often give good spade and axe handles. The brushwood is no obstacle to horses or cows, but it tears the wool off sheep.

The soil in the valley is of rich alluvial deposits, sometimes a little salty, and is fertilized by the river, which has two annual floods, one in summer from the melting of the snows of the Andes, the second and greater one in winter from the rains in the same mountain ranges. In 1830 there was a dreadful inundation, but the floods are generally harmless and beneficent, filling the lagoons and old beds of streams, which keep the water for the rest of the year. Rain is rare, and the climate may be called dry.

There is no part of the province where trees thrive so well as here, and the traveller is struck by the rows of poplars and fruit-trees on all sides, especially in the islands of the river. The vine does remarkably well, and the Chocoli wine would be much better if more care were taken with this industry. The rivers and lagoons are lined with indigenous willows, called «Sauce colorado :» the wood-cutters make «balsas» of this timber, which they sell at El Carmen, as it is very useful for corral posts, building, &c. These posts last six or seven years, and would last longer if the ends were burned. Fences are also often made of chañar branches. This abundance of timber is a great gain, and renders building very cheap. Reeds and straw abound in the lowlands, and good roofs are also made of young willow branches tied together and covered with two or three layers of mud and chopped straw. The river in winding through the valley forms a number of «rincones» of amazing fertility, which are easily fenced in for grazing and agricultural purposes.

Of all the settlements attempted by the old Spaniards on the shores of Patagonia, that of the Rio Negro or Patagones is the only one now existing. It was founded in the close of the last century, and suffered at first many difficulties. Being cut off from all contact with the exterior world, the inhabitants still preserve a distinct type from the Buenos Ayreans. In 1833, when Rosas made his great expedition to the desert, he gave a great and sudden impulse to Patagones; he distributed cattle and agricultural implements among the poor inhabitants, garrisoned the island of Cholechoel, and founded a new town called Guardia Constitucion. The place being thus protected, cattle multiplied amazingly, and the salt deposits were soon in full work. Salina del Ingles is situated near the coast, Salina de Piedra eight leagues north of the town, and Salina de Espuma five leagues W.N.W. of the town, about half a league from the river. At the same time the saladeros were in full play, wheat was sown on a great scale, and everything promised well. The fall of Rosas brought a great change: the Indians devastated the whole country, and the Cacique Yanquetruz boasted that he would reduce the wretched inhabitants «to live on hares' flesh.» He kept his word to the letter, for the poor people had actually to subsist for a time on hares. The present Comandante, Don Julian Murga, undertook to revive the efforts of Rosas, he made peace with the Indians, built a fort called Guardia Mitre, about fifteen leagues above Patagones, brought a stock of 60,000 sheep into the valleys, and recently started a saladero and sheep-graseria. He proposes to take possession again of the island of Cholechoel, which is an important strategic point. The «salinas» of La Piedra and La Espuma are now in full work; and the wheat crop is even

larger than at Bahia Blanca. The present population counts over 3,000 souls, of whom more than half are in the town. Houses in the camp are strongly rebuilt to resist any Indian foray. A pilot is posted at the mouth of the river, and the maritime traffic is more than double that of Bahia Blanca: the traders go to Buenos Ayres, freight a vessel with their wares, and send back a return cargo of salt or wheat. There is a small steamboat on the Rio Negro, and it is intended to make her run as high as Cholechoel. Maize, zapallo, melons, potatoes, &c., do remarkably well. Sheep thrive notably. There is a group of seventeen Italian families on the south bank, opposite China Muerta: they make excellent hams and cheese. After these the first settlers in the valley were—Messrs. Hensser and Claraz, natives of Switzerland, who purchased the lands of China-Muerta and Paso-Falso on the north bank, about ten leagues from Patagones: these are the finest lands in the Rio Negro: they bought mestiza sheep from Don Pedro Luro's estancia, and made an establishment which has now no rival in the district, whether in sheep-breeding, agriculture, milch cows, or curing of meat: their bacon and mutton hams have ready sale in Buenos Ayres, and they have sent some samples to Europe, which promise them a good market there also. After these gentlemen some Englishmen came to buy lands, and have now flourishing establishments, viz: Frazer Bros., Greenstreet, Everett, and Kincaid. Besides there are three Welsh colonists: Watkin Williams, E. Price, and J. Jones. There are in Patagones two kinds of sheep; the Pampas are large, robust, and long-wooled: they were brought hither by the Indians from Chile, and have some affinity to deer. The meat is very savoury. The ewes have often twin-lambs, which they rear without any difficulty. This race would answer well for crossing with smooth-wooled sheep, and Messrs. Kincaid are going to cross them with English breeds. The second kind of sheep in Patagones is the ordinary mestiza breed.

Visitors to Patagones will find every comfort at the inn of Don Guiseppe Avenente, an Italian, whose charges are moderate; another excellent hotel has recently been opened by Mr. Thomas Deacon, a German. If you want horses or guides apply to Mr. Avenente. The best guide is Cochengo Piedra-Buena, but we can also recommend Ureño and Agustin Sosa. Waggons are difficult to obtain unless at exorbitant rates: for the south side apply to Solano Alderete, San Javier, or the Italians in front of China-Muerta; most of the latter reside in the town. The Rio Negro divides Patagones into two distinct towns: the commercial and old town is on the north side, comprising the wholesale houses of Aguirre and Murga, Abate, Dasso, Pascarelo, &c. On the south side lived Mr. Sheiler, of the Falkland Islands, whose beautiful quinta now belongs to the English

Mission: on this side also is the English Church, where Dr. Humble practises both in medicine and divinity, and keeps a free school and a well-stocked dispensary for the use of poor and rich. The usual charges for freight to and from Buenos Ayres are \$f.5 to \$f.6 per ton. The many advantages of Patagones render it suitable for new beginners. The settler who has a good rifle and well-built house may laugh at the Indians; and this part of the country is wholly free from political commotions. Land is cheap, freight is cheap, timber and water abound, and sheep may be reared here at better profit than elsewhere. For further details about Patagones see Chap. VI., page 53 of Section A., in which is also a full account of the Welsh Colony on the River Chupat. The trade returns of Patagones for the year show 28 vessels with 3,945 tons burden. The state-schools are attended by 52 boys and 35 girls; a new school-house is being built. Justice of Peace Don Domingo de Oro; Post-master Don Ignacio Leon.

A new settler in the partido thus describes it:—

«I owe to Colonel Murga's kindness having had the opportunity of making an excursion as far as the «Guardia Mitre.» I have therefore seen the Rio Negro from its mouth to the town of Carmen de Patagones (eight leagues,) and thence to the Guardia (seventeen leagues,) making twenty-five leagues of its course. The left or south side is flat and low, with high ground at a considerable distance, the exact extent of which I dare not calculate for fear of being wrong. The north side is also flat near to the water as the south side; the low ground is, however, much narrower, and is bounded by a range of hillocks of tosea and sand of no great height (from four to ten metres.) The river is full of islands of different sizes, most of which are private property. The natural vegetation is vigorous, both in the islands and near the banks of the river. The red willow is very abundant here, and although white poplar is also to be found, it has all been planted. The soil is in general very fertile, even to the top of the hillocks, but with the exception of some of the lower parts, the hand of man has not turned it to use. I have had but little opportunity of examining the higher ground, and this only on the northern side. The camp there is covered with chañares not very high, alpataco, piquillin, jarrilla, and in a word with all the plants that are found in the vicinity of San Juan and Mendoza. In the lower part there is chilca, rushes, &c., as in Cuyo. Grass is generally very abundant everywhere, but it is not so thick on the higher ground.

«The soil on the plateau is sandy and loose. On the banks of the river gravel and round pebbles increase the higher one ascends. It is only

in the islands and in the lower ground near the banks of the river that cultivation is carried on. Some people work hard, but badly, and not with much success, on account of the scarcity of hands. Hard-working people form the exception, and not the rule. The drawbacks to contend against are the locusts, the drought at certain seasons, and the excessive rains at others, when, for instance, the wheat is still in the threshing-ground causing considerable damage, as has happened this year. The locust is not of that large kind which sometimes comes from the desert in enormous flights, darkening the light of the sun and destroying everything that is green wherever they alight. What we are plagued with is of a small size, does not fly high or far, and seems to reproduce itself in the same places where it commits its devastations. It would be very desirable to find the means of exterminating this mischievous insect. As far as the drought is concerned, the means to guard against it are extremely simple: they are at this moment being put to the test, and I think will very soon be of general application. I have said that the cultivated lands are the islands and the low grounds in the vicinity of the river's banks. The river has sufficient fall to allow of canals being made at any point, without the necessity of cutting through rocks or overcoming gradients; so much so that it is a matter of wonder that a system of artificial irrigation by means of canals, having been successfully applied in Bahia Blanca, nobody has thought of doing the same in Patagones. At present, Messrs. Nieva and Tonsua, both San Juaninos, are endeavoring to establish this system, and I feel certain that they will soon obtain the most complete success. Farmers will then be independent of the eventualities of rain, and I leave it to you to judge of the great importance of this matter. Moreover, any one that can and will irrigate his crops can secure his harvest several days sooner than he who depends upon the uncertainty of rain, and thus be able to get through his harvesting operations before the autumn rains set in. It would not be difficult to find protection from the latter by making use of the timber that grows so abundantly along the river, and constructing sheds where thrashing might be carried on by machinery, and under cover.

«Without venturing to state it as a certainty, since I have only lately become acquainted with the country, it seems to me that the greatest drawback here is the scarcity of laborers, and the slovenly way in which the few who do work get through a very small amount of work. The garrison here is not very numerous, yet if their Commandant were not to give leave to a portion of his soldiers to work, the want would severely affect the amount of production.»

CHAP. XI.

THE ISLANDS OF THE PARANA.

Nor far from the city of Buenos Ayres, on the northern side, where the waters of the Paraná and Uruguay mingle, forming one wide estuary, which, flowing majestically into the Atlantic, takes the name of Rio de la Plata, or River Plate—the waters of the Paraná debouch into the latter by innumerable arms, forming a perfect network of canals and islands, which covers a vast extent of territory. It is what is known as the Delta or Islands of the Paraná, a spot upon which nature, with a bountiful hand, has lavished all her treasures. There may be other spots on the face of the globe more picturesque, owing to a more varied scenery and more romantic landscape by which nature adorns a broken and mountainous soil, but none can surpass these islands in the luxury of their ever verdant beauty, the purity of air and water, the abundance and charms of their innumerable canals and streamlets, the fertility of the soil, and the plentifulness and delicious flavor of their fruit.

It was on the 8th of September, 1855, that a party recruited from among the notabilities of the time, embarked at the Tigre in the Captain of the Port's cutter, and under the guidance of Don Antonio Somellera, then Captain in the naval service, proceeded to explore the spot of which they had heard such glowing descriptions. Among others the party consisted of Colonel B. Mitre (afterwards Brigadier General and President of the Republic,) C. Pellegrini and S. Arcos, engineers, Crosa and Monra, members of the San Fernando Municipal Board, Sarmiento, Col. Albarracin, Torres, &c.

The expeditioners were charmed with all they saw, and brought back such a favorable report that the public, fired by Sr. Sarmiento's able writings in the «Nacional,» seized with enthusiasm the project of the colonization of the islands, and people of all classes rushed to become the happy possessors of an island. Before the end of that year the following names had registered their title deeds in the Juzgado of San Fernando:—

CARAPACHAY MINI.

Canal de Lujan.

Miguel Fernandez, Teodoro J. Amestra, Florentino Piñero, Ladislao Piñero, Joaquin Countra, Doroteo Blanco, Ciriaco Rojas, Juan Rojas, Santos Novas, Juan Pondal, Jacobo Parravicini, Antonio Olivera, Domingo Iparraguirre.

Canal del Toro.

Miguel Melo, Antonio Obligado, Jacinto Gonzalez, Antonio Silva, Eugenio Seide, Carlos Reyes, Fernandez Reyno.

Canal de Carapachay.

Estanislao Franco, Wenceslao Navarro, Martin Rodriguez, Gil Mendez, Maximo Bros, Maximo Gamboa, José Yrretraregui, Felipe Marana, Domingo Trelles, Joaquin Silva, José Bargas, Antonio Bargas, Francisco Alvarez, Manuel Guardia, Patricio Bookey, La Crosse, Fortunato Poncel, Pedro José Diaz, Florencio Pondal, Lorenzo Torres, J. Barros Pazos, Santiago Klappenbach, Bortolomé Leloir, Juan Basterelli, N. Klappenbach, Hilario Almeida, Augusto Fabier, Nicomedes Reynal.

Canal del Cambao.

Francisco Rojas, Francisco Varela, José Maria Romero.

Canal del Torito.

Juan Valenzuela, Francisco Ruiz.

Canal de la Espera.

Monica Barraza, Anacleto Carneiro.

Canal de la Esperita.

Angel Crosa, Feliciano Blanco, Andres Gomez.

Canal de la Abra Nueva.

Marcos Sastre, Miguel Casal, Pio Crosa, Ezequiel Cordoba, Manuel Monra, D. F. Sarmiento, Juan José Alsina, Pedro Villarino, Reyes Sagaste, Federico Toledo.

Canal de la Abra Vieja.

Benjamin Sastre, Hermogenes Salguero, Eduardo Vega, Bernardo Correa, Miguel Otero, Juan de los Santos, Leon Bordon, José Gutierrez, Antonio Cueto, Pedro Soto.

Canal de la Rama Negra.

Fernando Jaren, Emilio Furque, Santiago Albaracin, José Cordero.

Canal de Galves.

Antonio Obligado, Juan Muñoz, Manuel Garango, José Manuel Moreno, Roque Petrochi, Gumesindo Arana, Alejandro Franco.

Canal del Capitan.

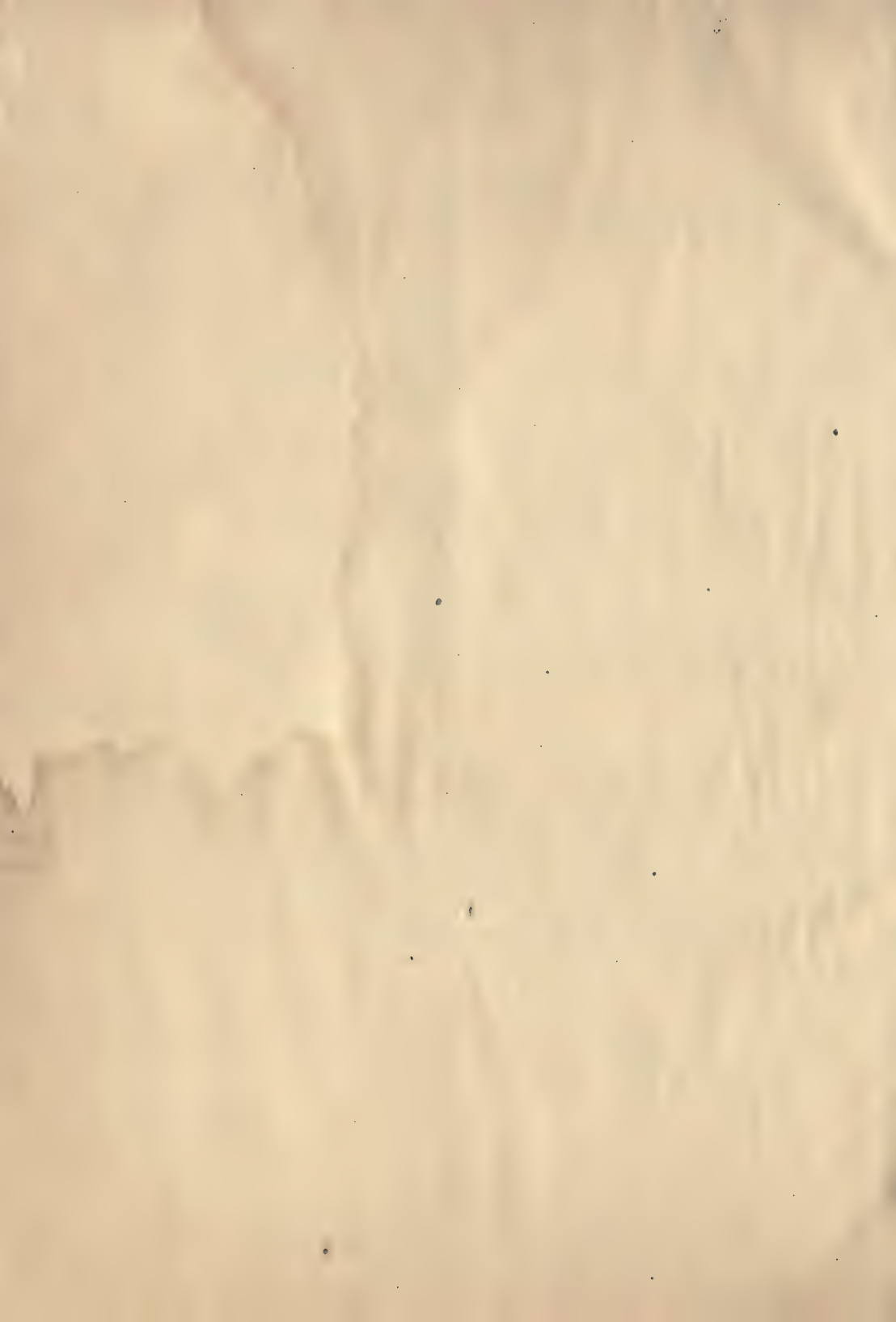
Hilario Ascasubi, José Ramon Oguela, Remigio Gonzalez Moreno, Antonio Gonzalez Moreno, Santiago Lacasa, Juan Ramos, Santiago Arcos, Francisco Riobo, Luis Villargá.

CARAPAYCHAY GUAZU.

Paraná de las Palmas.

Manuel Ferreyra, Mariano Sarratea, Ramon Mancilla, Tesdoro Zabnela, Federico Carril, Manuel Fernandez, Manuel Pazos. Mateo Beovide, Santiago Yarte, Fernando Ramos, Miguel Rivas, Fernando Vazquez, Domingo Martinez, Leblanc, Antonio Doderó, Antonio Dunoyer, Pablo Nongier, P. Maria Nongier, Mariano Delfino, Samuel Hale, Cayetano Caumartin, Miguel Nero, Maria Lienferts, Pastora Torres, Nicolas Calvo, Eustaquio Riestra, Augusto Riestra, Emilio Agrelo, Hermenegildo Riestra, Pedro Carreras, Juan Connell, José M. Bentillo, Joaquim Hornos, Julian Martinez, Bernardo Lienfert, &c., &c.

The enthusiasm of the great majority of those who by Sarmiento's powerful writings and impressive preaching attempted the colonization and cultivation of these favored islands, was not of long duration, and most of them, after planting a few poplars and willows, gradually forgot the existence of their property. Among the few exceptions is to be counted an enterprising Frenchman, a gardener by profession and inclination, Mr. Brunet, whose large island on the Canal del Toro may even now serve as a model of flower and vegetable gardening. At considerable trouble and expense he has succeeded, after struggling for years with the difficulties natural to the locality and those common to all new settlements, in making up his island an immense and highly productive nursery garden for almost every specie of the vegetable kind, from the most rare tropical plants and valuable fruit-trees to the last variety of common domestic cabbage and potato. Mr. Brunet keeps a store in the city, in Calle Reconquista, where he always keeps on hand a large supply of plants, fruit, and vegetables, the latter being daily conveyed by a canoe to the Tigre, and thence to town by the Northern Railway. In February, 1869, Mr. Crabtree, manager of the Northern Railway, at the very low price of \$89,000, purchased an island. Five years ago the late Mr. Henry Harratt, and two other Englishmen, also bought an island.





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